DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 347 015 RC 018 650

AUTHOR	Stout, Peg
TITLE	Alaska Women in the Iditarod.
INSTITUTION	Alaska State Dept. of Education, Juneau. Div. of Educational Program Support.
PUB DATE	Jan 92
NOTE	91p.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC04 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Alaska Natives; *Awards; Elementary Secondary Education; *Females; Information Sources; Instructional Materials; *Profiles; Recognition (Achievement); *Womens Athletics
IDENTIFIERS	*Alaska; *Iditarod Sled Dog Race

ABSTRACT

This instructional booklet features biographical stories of Alaskan women who have raced and participated in the annual Iditarod Sled Dog Race. The Iditarod race covers over 1,049 miles from Anchorage to Nome and attracts racers from all over the world. A team consists of 12 to 18 dogs and their trainer or musher. The first Iditarod took place in Alaska in March 1973; the first woman raced in 1974. This booklet was written as part of "Women in History Month," which is celebrated each March honoring Alaskan women who have excelled in sports. The biographies describe the women's courage, work ethic, and determination. They also describe the mental and physical training required in the sport of sled dog racing. Also featured are biographies of women who assisted in coordinating the race. Each biography includes classroom activities and questions for discussions. Appendices include: (1) example geography and reading lesson plans including objectives, materials, procedures, and enrichment activities; (2) instructions for making dog booties; (3) recipe for dog biscuits; (4) blank map of Alaska; (5) a bibliography of materials related to sled dog racing and the Iditarod; and (6) a student information packet which consists of an overview of the race and its history, examples of special race awards for 1991, an Alaskan musher's dictionary, 1991 race checkpoints, biographical information on women mushers in 1990, a list of Iditarod Champions, official 1991 rules, map of northern and southern race routes, 1991 race standings, special race awards, and press highlights. (LP)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

RC

ED347015

1992

Alaska Women in the Iditarod

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Alaska State
D. E.
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

RC018650

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
☒ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality
● Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Walter J. Hickel
Governor

Jerry Covey
Commissioner of Education

Edwin Westlund
Director, Educational Program Support

Alaska State Board of Education

Joe Montgomery
President

Kathryn Cuddy
1st Vice-President

Robert M. Walp
2nd Vice-President

John E. Hotzfield
Member

June Nelson
Member

Patricia Norheim
Member

Andrew S. Warwick
Member

Dr. Roger O. Jarvis, USAF
Military Member

Sunshine Bishop
Student Member

printed by

Alaska Women in the Iditarod

Written by:
Peg Stout

Edited by:
Connie Munro and Anne Kessler

Design by:
Susan Kraft

January 1992

Equity in education
THE ALASKA PROJECT

Funding for this project is provided by Title IV,
Civil Rights, Section 403 (c),
State Education Agency,
Desegregation of Public Education Program,
CFDA Number 84-004

State of Alaska

Alaska
Department of
Education

Introduction & Acknowledgments

Each March, Alaskans celebrate "Women in History Month." One goal for celebrating, is to focus on women who have excelled in sports such as the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. The biographical stories in this booklet honor Alaskan women who have raced and participated in the sport of sled dog racing. The sport requires mental and physical endurance comparable to no other sport. This incredible annual race attracts participants from across the globe. Women such as co-founder and mother of the Iditarod, Dorothy Page, have participated from its inception.

Peg Stout, author of the biographies, gives us a delightful insight into each participant's uniqueness and contributions to this sport. Ms. Stout is an educator and curriculum specialist at the Anchorage School District and a dog mushing enthusiast and volunteer since 1976. She developed the module to show common threads of the women's courage, work ethic and determination. In addition, she is the mother of dog musher DeeDee Jonrowe featured in the biographies.

The Alaska Department of Education wishes to recognize the author Peg Stout and individuals who assisted in completing this module.

The Iditarod Headquarters in Wasilla provided the use of the Student Information Packet in the appendix; photographs by Jim Brown, an official Iditarod photographer; assistance from Jules Mead, Executive Director; Joanne Potts, Race Coordinator; and Lois Harter, Logistics Coordinator.

Department of Education staff who assisted in this project: Estelle Bentley, Dawn Collinsworth, Janine Dorsey, Dianna Hebert, Marjorie Menzi, Sondra Stanway, and Robert Stevenson.

Any part of this text and appendices may be copied for classroom and school use.

Connie Munro
Gender Equity Specialist
Division of Educational Program Support
Alaska Department of Education
801 West 10th Street, Suite 200
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1894

Table of Contents

Introduction 3

Sled Dog Racers

Libby Riddles
First woman to win the Iditarod 5
Susan Butcher
Four time Iditarod winner 9
DeeDee Jonrowe
Humanitarian Award winner 15
Beverly Jerue Masek
Anvik Musher 18
Kate Persons
1991 Rookie of the Year 21
Mary Ellen "Mellen" Shea
1991 Iditarod Rookie 25
Other women who have run the Iditarod 28
Karen Schmidt
Chief Veterinarian for 1992 30

Women behind the Iditarod

Joanne Potts
Race Coordinator 36
Lois Harter
Communication Coordinator 39
Fran Hall
Computer Programmer 42
Volunteers and the Iditarod 46

Appendices

Iditarod Geography Race to Nome I
Iditarod Reading Race to Nome II
How to make booties III
Recipe for dog biscuits IV
Blank map of Alaska V
Iditarod trail map (See Appendix VII p. 24)
Bibliography VI
Student information packet on the Iditarod Race
by the Iditarod Trail Committee in Wasilla VII

Libby Riddles

First Woman to Win the Iditarod

What is it like to be the first woman to win the Iditarod? Ask Libby Riddles. She can tell you. Libby became the first woman to win the Iditarod in 1985. Libby can also tell you how much work it is to train a team to win the Iditarod!

Each year before the Iditarod the media speculates about who might win the race. In 1985, some people talked about how a woman MIGHT win the Iditarod, however, they probably weren't thinking about Libby Riddles. After all, Libby had only run the Iditarod twice before.

Early Years

Libby grew up in Minnesota with four sisters and two brothers. There were always animals around. Her special love was cats but the family dog was O.K., too. In fact, Libby says she didn't really get excited about dogs until she met huskies.

Mushing Career

Libby began mushing in 1979, and ran her first Iditarod in 1980. Even then, she had one special person who was sure that she could place in the Top Twenty. That special person was Mary Riddles, Libby's mother. Mary said that Libby had been taught to do the best she could at whatever she decided to do. Libby's mother added that while she didn't expect Libby to win the first time around, she knew that Libby would some day win as Libby would likely continue racing until she did win! Sure enough, Libby placed 18th in 1980, which is a very respectable showing for a rookie!

Entering the Iditarod competition a second time, Libby placed 20th in 1981. Although she was proud of her early successes, she decided to wait several years before running the race again. Instead she worked hard to develop a winning team. Libby was living and training her team in Teller, a village north of Nome near the Bering Sea. Every day, she would train her dogs to run into the cold winds that blew in from the Bering Sea. This was very cold and hard work for Libby and her dogs! But her team learned to run into the coastal winds and ground blizzards. This was probably an important element in her ultimate success.

By 1985, Libby felt she was ready to run the race again. This time she had a team that included some dogs she had raised from pups. Many people think the dogs you raise yourself will work harder for you. She also had some dogs that were "coastal" dogs that had been raised and trained in the western coast of Alaska and were used to the strong, cold winds of that area.

Libby won the 1985 Iditarod Sled Dog Race, but it wasn't easy! There were many challenges to overcome. She says her first potential problem was a washing machine in the trail near the garbage dump between Anchorage and Eagle River. Apparently, this washing machine caused several mushers to overturn but Libby managed to keep her sled upright when passing over it.

Another early problem was a broken sled brake. Since there are no bridles, bits or reins to control dogs like there are with horses, the only ways to control a dog team are by using one's voice, a sled brake, dragging your feet and/or turning the sled over and making the dogs drag it until they get tired. Usually a fresh and eager dog team is difficult to control by voice except to give them directions. If the driver says, "Gee", the leaders will go to the right and if the driver says, "Haw", the leaders will go to the left. Otherwise they just keep going even if you yell "Stop!" Dragging your feet when fourteen dogs are pulling wears your boots out and is not very effective in stopping the team. Upsetting a loaded sled is just not very smart either. Therefore, a broken sled brake is serious.

Fortunately, Libby's sled brake broke before she got to Knik on the first day of the race. Knik is usually the last checkpoint where your friends come to see how well your team is doing as you get started on the race. More fortunately for Libby, the friends who came to see her at Knik had a sled with them. Seeing her predicament, they took the brake off their sled and gave it to Libby. What wonderful friends they were!

On the first night, another potentially serious mishap took place. Libby had her team tied to a rather small tree which broke and her team took off down the trail with Libby hanging onto the handlebars. She was able to hang on for only a short distance. Her team was gone and Libby was left in the trail! Again, fortunately, mushers can and do help each other in trouble. A musher ahead of Libby caught her team as it raced down the trail. He tied it securely to another, bigger tree. A runaway team can be very dangerous for the dogs. Sometimes they become tangled and may even get into a fight. Another musher who was behind Libby gave her a ride. You can imagine Libby's relief when she found her team with no injuries safely tied off waiting for her. Oh, yes, later in the race, Libby helped another musher by catching his team when it pulled away from the driver. This is just one way mushers help each other on the trail.

Continuing on that year, she also had some dogs get sick. This is always a concern for the mushers, but again Libby was lucky. A bad storm caused the mushers to stop at Rainy Pass for almost three days. This gave the dogs time to rest and regain their health. Later in Ophir, the dogs had another extended rest because the weather was so bad that the "Iditarod Air Force" hadn't been able to get dog food to the next checkpoint. On another occasion, Libby wasn't so lucky. If you look at pictures of Libby at the end of the race, you will see a nasty cut across her nose. That happened when she was trying to get a brief nap on the trail and was hit across the nose by the branch of a tree. I guess things could have been worse; she might have been knocked off her sled.

Shaktoolik is the "jumping off place" across Norton Sound. From Shaktoolik to the next checkpoint is about fifty miles across the ice. There is no protection from the winds and blowing snow once you leave Shaktookik. A major decision mushers must make is when to leave Shaktoolik. Having been the first musher to leave Unalakleet, the first coastal village in the race, Libby was beginning to think about the possibility of winning by now. She arrived in Shaktoolik early enough to let the dogs rest awhile and still be able to leave there during the daylight. Even so, the decision to start across the ice was not an easy one to make. It was snowing and the wind was blowing - hard! She knew she had only a few hours of daylight and fifty miles of trail before the next checkpoint. This trail would probably be difficult to follow. It was undoubtedly covered over by blowing snow. She also knew this was her chance to really get ahead.and asked herself, "Why had she spent those many miserable days training if not for times like these?" Libby knew that her dogs had been trained to run in weather just like she was experiencing at that moment!

When Libby was interviewed later, she readily admitted that she was scared. She also said "You'd have to be stupid not be be scared in those conditions. But fear helps keep things in perspective. And I just kept telling myself that if you win the race, it's worth it."

She feels that she made the right move at the right time, to insure distance between her and the rest of the mushers. She was later to discover that it was certainly worth the chance she took. Because of darkness and the blizzard conditions, no other mushers left until the next day. Thus Libby was the leader from Shaktoolik to Nome and won the race.

That move was to change Libby's life from then on. She went from being just another musher from Teller, Alaska, to being the First Lady of Mushing. She was a celebrity, not just in Alaska, but all over the United States. She was voted the Professional Sportswoman of the Year by the Women's Sports Foundation. She received a letter of congratulations from President Ronald Reagan. Libby took a chance, and not only won the 1985 Iditarod but is still going many places and doing many things.

Not only was Libby's life changed by her victory, but the Iditarod was changed, too. More people in more places heard about the race and continue to hear about it. Libby not only races dogs, but sings, skin sews, and has written a book about her race, *Race Across Alaska*. You may have seen the book, *Danger the Dog Yard Cat*. That is a book about a real cat, Libby's cat. She helped write that one, too.

Libby's life has changed some, but she can still be found in her dog yard and out on the trail training for another Iditarod. She wasn't able to run in 1991 because of conplications from a broken leg, but watch for Libby in 1992. She plans to be there on the trail. If she isn't, I bet it will be because she is doing something else very exciting.

Activities

1. If you were a dog driver (musher) and your sled brake broke, what would you do? Explain your answer.

2. The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race is 1049 miles long. McGrath is 413 miles from Anchorage. After arriving in McGrath how many more miles must a musher go to get to Nome?

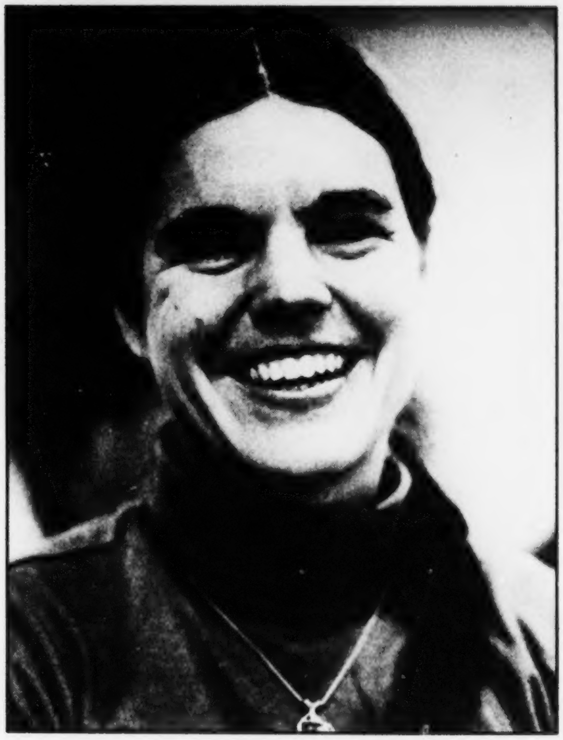
3. Draw a picture of something you might be able to do to help a musher get ready to run the Iditarod.

4. Pretend you are a lead dog. Write what you are thinking after four days on the trail. Include such events as leading off Fourth Avenue in Anchorage, being trucked from Eagle River to Wasilla, the restart in Wasilla and any other events you might wish to include.

5. Make a chart showing what you would need to take with you if you ran the Iditarod. In another column show what you might want to take with you. Be ready to explain your choices to the class.

Needs	Wants

6. If you could visit only one checkpoint along the trail, which one would you select? Why?



Susan Butcher

Four Time Iditarod Winner

What's it like to plan and train your dogs for years, only to have a moose stomp your dogs and your hopes of winning the Iditarod? Susan Butcher can answer that question. She can also tell you about the thrill of winning the Iditarod one, two, three, and four times.

Early Years:

Susan grew up in Cambridge, Massachusetts. This isn't necessarily a place where you would expect to find a potential famous dog musher - or could I be wrong? As you might guess, Susan's favorite pet was her dog. She had Siberian huskies even in Massachusetts but didn't learn to mush there. Susan had fun during the New England winters, but she loved New England summers, too, because then she would go to the Maine seacoast and enjoy long hours of sailing or doing anything that kept her outside

Susan's trail to Alaska was through Colorado. During her time in Colorado, she decided to become a veterinary technician. What a wonderful job for someone who loves animals! She worked as a veterinary technician in Colorado for several years. In her spare time, Susan trained Siberians for local sprint races. Susan was still in Colorado when the first Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race took place in March of 1973. Susan first learned about the Iditarod when she read an article about it in *Team and Trail*. However, she didn't move to Alaska until 1975.

Susan's training as a veterinary technician and her love of animals led to her first job in Alaska. She went to work as a veterinary technician at the University of Alaska musk ox farm in Fairbanks. When the musk ox farm was moved to Unalakleet, Susan moved with it. Unalakleet is a village on Norton Sound where fishing is important. Unalakleet is also a place where people get to know each other and talk about their dreams. Who might be the most inspirational person Susan could meet if she was interested in running the Iditarod someday? How about Joe Redington, Sr., the Father of the Iditarod? Joe Redington, Sr. was managing the Norton Sound Fisherman's Coop cannery during the summer of 1977, when Susan met him. They talked about dogs and especially about running the Iditarod. Susan told him about her dream and how she was training in the Wrangell Mountains. Joe told her that the place to train was Knik.

Mushing Career:

Later in 1977, Susan followed Joe Redington's suggestion and decided to "drop by" Knik for a couple of weeks and see what she could learn. Needless to say, Susan found new friends and new opportunities to learn about dogs and training. During the early part of 1978, she lived in a tent near Knik and trained for the conditions she might encounter on the Iditarod Trail. Susan was ready to run the Iditarod the following year.

1978 was a record-breaking year in the history of women in the Iditarod. It was the first Iditarod where three women ran. It was also the first time for women to place in the Top Twenty. You can imagine Susan's excitement when she placed 19th in her very first Iditarod! Another woman, Varona Thompson, placed 20th. Two women had placed in the Top Twenty! Although no one knew it at the time, a new era was about to dawn - an era where women began to take their place as serious contenders in the Iditarod. It seems only fitting that Susan was one of those first women.

Susan's rise to fame had begun. In 1979 she arrived in Nome in 9th place, making her the first woman to place in the Top Ten. By 1980 there were seven women who ran the Last Great Race. Susan crossed the finish line in Nome in 5th place - the first woman to place in the Top Five! Again in 1981, Susan placed 5th. In 1982 she was second. Rick Swenson beat her by 3 minutes and 46 seconds. This was after being on the trail for 16 days. It had been a tough 16 days, too. Within the first 24 hours she had lost the trail and valuable time when fresh snow covered the trail. Not long after that she had to drop four of her most valuable dogs due to injuries. Things were not going well for her. Storms were constant companions in 1982. In 1983, Susan was 9th and in 1984, she again placed second.

By 1985 there was a lot of talk about the possibility of a woman winning the Iditarod. Of course, the woman that people were thinking about was Susan Butcher. But a cruel finish awaited Susan that year. Snow in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley was very deep. When the snow is deep the moose like to walk on the dog trails. In fact, they become rather possessive of the trails and don't particularly care to share them. Susan was leading the race as the trail led toward Rabbit Lake. Rabbit Lake is a "tent" checkpoint. A tent is set up so the checkers have some protection while waiting for the mushers to check in. The mushers just check in and keep going - usually.

But in 1985 that was not what happened. Perhaps it would be better if I just quoted from Susan's own account of the encounter with the moose as written in the 1986 Iditarod Trail Annual. This is Susan's story:

> *"...Eyes wild, a large cow moose stood in the middle of the trail 20 feet in front of Granite. My heart pounding, I threw the sled over to stop. The moose charged into the team, kicking and snorting. I was terrified, but I have had moose in my team before. They always have come storming through, hitting dogs, the sled and myself, but then they continue down the trail. So I braced myself for her onslaught. Fate would not have it that way.*
>
> *She stopped in the middle of the team and reared up on her hind legs, and with her full weight came crashing down on Johnnie and Ruff, two of my strongest team dogs. For the next five minutes, it was a nightmarish blur. I was hearing yelps of my beloved dogs,*

hearing the cow snorting and growling and the snap of her hind legs striking out against dog after dog all up and down the line. My mind was whirling with thoughts to protect my dogs and myself, but no solution came up. Then suddenly she stopped, square in front of me. A reprieve for my dogs.

I pulled off my parka, waving it in her face, trying to scare her off. She charged me. I backed off. But again I tried. She backed off to the front of the team where she had a free avenue of escape, but instead she charged again, pounding her front legs, this time down on Hyde and Yeller.

Their screams tore through my heart. I ran forward with my ax, poking her with it, but she struck at me with her hind legs. I retreated and she calmed down for a couple of minutes.

The dogs were dead silent. Many were torn loose from their harnesses and collars. No one moved. I went slowly up through the team releasing necklines and tugs so the dogs tangled could retreat.

Then it started again. The moose charged, kicking wildly. Granite went for her hind legs. She got him in the head and he was thrown up against a tree. She went after Copilot, but suddenly, twenty minutes after it started, I saw a light other than my own..."

Another musher finally appeared and had to shoot the moose. When Susan checked her dogs, she discovered only two were uninjured - fifteen had injuries. Still she was able to finally get to the Rabbit Lake checkpoint. Try to imagine how Susan felt at this point. Not only was she forced to scratch, leave the race, and give up her chance to win the Iditarod, but so many of her beloved dogs were injured! These were dogs she had nurtured and trained from little puppies, dogs who loved her and were willing to do anything she commanded. What a sad moment!

With Susan's tender care most of her dogs recovered. However, Johnnie had been killed by the moose on the trail, and Hyde, too, couldn't be saved. Although the other dogs recovered, Susan is still sad when she thinks about losing Hyde and Johnnie.

Many people wondered how Susan would do in the 1986 Iditarod Race. Those who knew her never questioned what she would do. They knew she would come back determined to win. They were right! She won the 1986 Iditarod in eleven days, fifteen hours, no minutes, and six seconds. Susan liked the feel of winning! She returned in 1987 and won a second time. This time she set a new record for the race. Her total elapsed time was 11 days, two hours, five minutes and thirteen seconds.

Before the race in 1988, conversation about the Iditarod centered around whether Susan could win again. For those people who were wearing T-shirts which read, "Alaska: Where Men are Men and Women Win the Iditarod" they did not have to put them away. Susan won again - for the THIRD time! Her time was eleven days, eleven hours, forty-one minutes, and eleven seconds.

Susan did not arrive in Nome in first place in 1989, but many people watching still considered her a winner! She crossed the finish line smiling. Then she hugged and praised each dog. They wagged their tails as if to tell her that they had done their best. It had been a tough race. Many of the dogs had been sick along the trail but Susan had carefully nursed them back to health. Other mushers who had been with Susan on the trail knew Susan and her dogs had done their best, too. Susan was very tired at the end of race, but when she heard that DeeDee Jonrowe's team had stopped for an unscheduled rest she hurried out to find DeeDee and give her words of encouragement. This was a great morale booster for DeeDee who later finished fourth.

As Wednesday morning, March 14, 1990 dawned, Front Street in Nome was filling with people. Everyone was there for one reason - to be there when the 1990 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race champion came across the finish line. Susan Butcher did not disappoint them. Her team came down the street with Susan running beside the sled. Once again they passed under the finisher's arch first! Susan became only the second person to win the Iditarod four times in the eighteen years of the race and the only woman to win more than once. Once again she had set a new record. She had broken her own record, set a new record for the northern route (On even-numbered years the route goes north, and on odd-numbered years, the trail goes south.) and set a new all-time record for the Iditarod - eleven days, one hour, fifty-three minutes, and twenty three seconds.

As race time approached in 1991, everyone interested in the Iditarod was talking about who would win. Could either of the two four-time winners do it again or would there be a new winner? That was not a question which would be answered until the last day! The race started out fast, but mushers began getting into storms soon after McGrath. Storms plagued them for the remainder of the race. Susan, along with DeeDee Jonroe, took twenty-five hours to go from Ophir to Iditarod, a leg which usually takes around twelve hours to cover. The women took turns snowshoeing in front of their teams so their dogs could pull through the deep snow. For almost eighty miles they took turns being in front so neither of their lead dogs would become discouraged. Susan was in front when they neared Iditarod, the halfway point in the race. Before she crossed the line she asked if anyone could see a light behind her. The race judge replied that he could see a light. At that time Susan stopped and said, "That's DeeDee. Can I park my dogs and not officially be here? We mushed 80 miles together and I want it to be a tie." The two women crossed the line together becoming the first mushers to ever share in the halfway prize.

She endured another storm on the Yukon., and still another going across Norton Sound which beat at her as she made her way in first place to White Mountain. In White Mountain it appeared there was no doubt who would win the 1991 Iditarod. There would be a five time winner of the Iditarod and it would be Susan. But alas, a cruel fate awaited Susan. Yes, she was the first musher to leave White Mountain exactly six hours after arriving. Race rules require each musher to remain at White Mountain for six hours. She left at 1:31 a.m. While Susan's team rested at White Mountain another ground blizzard had arrived in the area making it miserable to forge ahead, but Susan pushed into the storm. The next musher was allowed to leave just about an hour later. That musher, too, left in conditions that made it difficult to see beyond the wheel dogs. When they encountered each other on the trail, they decided to travel together. When the other musher's headlamp bulb burned out, Susan helped replace it. They were moving slowly, just from one trail marker to the other. Even then they became separated. People in Nome knew there were two mushers in the storm - someplace. They also knew that several mushers had returned to White Mountain. For a long time they didn't know who was in the storm and who had returned to White Montain. Susan had returned to White Mountain where her dogs were parked in a sheltered area and had straw to rest upon. She just felt they had been in one to many storms for one race! Susan was third in the 1991 Iditarod. Anyone want to bet where she'll place in 1992? Now you can see why Susan has been voted Professional Sportswoman of the Year for several years! Oh yes, when you see Susan ask her how Granite, her legendary lead dog now retired, enjoyed his visit to Washington, D.C. and being introduced to President George Bush.

Activities

1. Who did win the 1991 Iditarod? How many times has he won the race now? Who was second?
2. If you met a moose coming to school what would you do? Why?
3. In 1990 Susan won the Iditarod for the fourth time. She set a new, all-time record. Find out how long it took her and then write it in numbers. Find out her times for the other three times she won and write them in numbers also. Now rank them in order from her fastest time to her slowest time.
4. In 1991 Susan waited for DeeDee so they could go into the Halfway Checkpoint together. What was that checkpoint? Why did Susan wait for DeeDee? Would you do the same thing? Explain your answer.
5. Pretend you were Susan at White Mountain in 1991. Write a journal entry explaining how you feel before you leave White Mountain the first time. Write another journal entry explaining how you feel when you return because of the terrible storm.
6. If it is ninety-six miles from Kaltag to Unalakleet and it takes Susan eight hours to go that distance, how many miles an hour is her team traveling?

Susan's Dogs

```
K A M Q F G M J C C E B J I I V A K O O B Q G H B
K L A F I C G H E I F E R K O C D Q F F T H R Y K
C N U N Q G A N G P G T I P A P M Q P G E I A D B
A P D E K B A N D B O O Q I J I L L P L M F N E D
N N H G L M P I D L K K B C N N G A D B P G I A G
J K F I O B J I I N L M J A F T I P E A Y G T H R
F J C P N K I P C J E G H E L O D C O I N D E J A
O H H D G G O H E R M I T J E H A N K I L D P O Y
D H N O H C N Q C M E I P N Q F J F N B P B Y H C
M M D P O F E D E K A B O Q G M Q E A C Q O K N A
E G P B R K O G O C O J Q D S K T L J P E L I N S
P I P M N E Y B Q P E E Q U O H K A E J K J J I E
E F B G K E O O N A I E R N G E E L M L J Q N E Y
K E Q A T G E R A I M Y C I T Y N E E B I N M T M
B N J I G D O K E G C J L E M M E E B M N A P O G
M E H U O Z G E N Q A P N N G H E C J O D G E L M
I W L R A M O E N L B H P L H N B P F A N L L S G
A S S H A L E A G M N B E B O J K D G K N I A T L
D G N K F P O I F P C B G T A G L H J J I B N O F
E N A H I J D F Q F G G S F O G L L B O A R M I D
```

ADAM
BOAR
CASEY
COPILOT
CYRUS
DANDY
ELAN
GRANITE
GRAY
HANK
HEIFER
HERMIT
HYDE
IVAK
JAKE
JOHNNIE
LIGHTENING
LONGHORN
PINTO
PUFF
RODEO
SHALE
SLUGGO
STONE
TEKLA
TEMPY
TOLSTOI
TYNE
WHITEY
ZORN

Susan's Dogs

(answers)

```
K A M Q F G M J C C E B J I I V A K O O B Q G H B
K L A F I C G H E I F E R K O C D Q F F T H R Y K
C N U N Q G A N G P G T I P A P M Q P G E I A D B
A P D E K B A N D B O O Q I J I L L P L M F N E D
N N H G L M P I D L K K B C N N G A D B P G I A G
J K F I O B J I I N L M J A F T I P E A Y G T H R
F J C P N K I P C J E G H E L O D C O I N D E J A
O H H D G G O H E R M I T J E H A N K I L D P O Y
D H N O H C N Q C M E I P N Q F J F N B P B Y H C
M M D P O F E D E K A B O Q G M Q E A C Q O K N A
E G P B R K O G O C O J Q D S K T L J P E L I N S
P I P M N E Y B Q P E E Q U O H K A E J K J J I E
E F B G K E O O N A I E R N G E E L M L J Q N E Y
K E Q A T G E R A I M Y C I T Y N E E B I N M T M
B N J I G D O K E G C J L E M M E E B M N A P O G
M E H U O Z G E N Q A P N N G H E C J O D G E L M
I W L R A M O E N L B H P L H N B P F A N L L S G
A S S H A L E A G M N B E B O J K D G K N I A T L
D G N K F P O I F P C B G T A G L H J J I B N O F
E N A H I J D F Q F G G S F O G L L B O A R M I D
```

ADAM
BOAR
CASEY
COPILOT
CYRUS
DANDY
ELAN
GRANITE
GRAY
HANK
HEIFER
HERMIT
HYDE
IVAK
JAKE
JOHNNIE
LIGHTENING
LONGHORN
PINTO
PUFF
RODEO
SHALE
SLUGGO
STONE
TEKLA
TEMPY
TOLSTOI
TYNE
WHITEY
ZORN

DeeDee Jonrowe

Humanitarian Award Winner

So you would like a puppy? Lots of people want a puppy or kitten. DeeDee had one even before she was old enough to know she would like to have one. Her first puppy joined the Stout Family when it was about nine weeks old and DeeDee was six months old.

Early years:

DeeDee was born in Frankfurt, Germany on December 20, 1953 and passed her early years in Athens, Greece. Because she had to have papers from the American Embassy and because the weather was very bad, she and her mother were not able to go to Greece until DeeDee was fifteen days old. She did not enjoy the airplane trip because it hurt her ears. As she learned to walk, she enjoyed playing with her puppy and chasing the pet duck.

Later, when the family lived near Washington, D.C., she and her sister, Linda, enjoyed playing with their Springer Spaniel, Valla. She really enjoyed visiting her grandparents in Virginia because they had dogs and cats. There were also lots of cows. DeeDee especially liked to "help" her grandparents take care of the baby calves. She did not want to leave Virginia and all the animals on the farm. However, DeeDee was an army "brat" so the family had to move often.

In Ethiopia, the family dog was a German Shepherd, Susie. Susie liked to shake hands with all the guests who came to visit. She did not like thunderstorms and would hide in DeeDee's bed during a storm. When the family returned to America, DeeDee's grandmother in Missouri had a special treat for the girls, a Pekingese pup which the girls named Josephine. Over the years, Josephine was able to travel with the family to Massachusetts, Nebraska, Texas, and Okinawa. Thai-Thai, a siamese cat, lived with the family for seventeen years, too.

When the family returned to Virginia and had a house with some land, the girls immediately visited the nearest Humane Society. They adopted the first dog available, a little terrier type who had been found along the roadside and was very frightened. They named her Priscilla. Later DeeDee returned to the Humane Society and brought another terrified little Cockapoo home. She was named Nellie. They shared their space with two horses, three cats, one rabbit, and twenty-one guinea pigs. Priscilla, Nellie and Thai-Thai accompanied the family in their camper when they came to Alaska. DeeDee's very first job was working in a veterinary clinic. By now, I'm sure you realize that DeeDee grew up in a family that loved animals and was tolerant of her love for animals.

When DeeDee was in college she still was fond of bringing home stray animals. Thiswas a trait which often was not fully appreciated by her usually ever so tolerant roommate. DeeDee graduated from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks with a BS in Biological Sciences.

After graduation from college, she moved to Bethel, where she first worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a game biologist. Later she became the fisheries biologist for Western Alaska. In 1979, when she went to Anchorage for a visit, she had a chance to drive a dog team and immediately knew she liked it. A friend offered to let her drive his dogs in the Women's Fur Rendezvous Race that year. Unfortunately, the lead dog knew an old trail which led to a very busy road and took the team and driver out onto the highway into traffic which was very scary! At that moment DeeDee decide she wanted her own team! She soon had five dogs.

Mushing Career:

The first Kuskokwim 300 Race was in 1980. This was also DeeDee's first big race with her own dogs. It started in Bethel and went to Aniak and back. However, DeeDee was lost in a storm near Tuluksak for sixteen very scary hours. Two brave young men from Tuluksak went out to look for her. She was very cold when they found her and took her back to their village. There the men in the village took care of her dogs while the women worked to get her warm again.

This was very frightening for her but DeeDee continued to make plans to run her first Iditarod in 1980. Again, very special people encouraged her along the trail and taught her survival techniques. Because of the help and encouragement of such people as Don Honea, Rudy Demoski, and Warner Vent, she finished her first Iditarod in 24th place.

It has been more than ten years since DeeDee ran her first Iditarod.. She has attained many of her goals so far. Her first goal was to finish the race. She did that in 1980. Her second goal was to finish in the top twenty. She did that in 1983 when she finished 15th. Her third goal was to finish in the top ten. She did that in 1988 when she finished ninth. A fourth goal was to finish in the top five. She did that in 1989. On the road to attaining these goals she has also reached other mileposts. She won the Sportsmanship Trophy in 1981 when she turned her team around and drove it back through water to get dog food for two mushers who has run out of food for their dogs. She has won the Humanitarian Trophy for dog care in the Kusko 300. In 1989 she not only won the John Beargrease Race in Minnesota, but also won the trophy for exemplary dog care. The same year she was awarded the Arctic Sports Medicine Human Performance Award when she ran and walked over four miles in front of her team to get to Nome in fourth place. DeeDee was elated when she won the Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award in 1991 for exemplary dog care in the Iditarod. It meant she had received special recognition for dog care in all three of the major races she participated in.

Some people say winning isn't just coming in first. Winning is setting goals for yourself and then working to reach them.. With this definition of winning, DeeDee can certainly be considered a winner. Sometimes it's discouraging, but she just keeps working harder and harder. She still has another goal she's reaching for. Her ultimate goal is to win the Iditarod. Perhaps someday soon she will also be an Iditarod winner by coming in first.

Activities

1. On a blank map of the world, mark the places where DeeDee has lived.
2. Select one of the places. Go to the library and find out more about that place. Make a booklet showing interesting things about that place.
3. Of all the places mentioned where DeeDee has lived, where would you most like to live? Pretend you live there and write to a friend about that place. Be sure to explain why you especially like it.
4. DeeDee is a Fisheries Biologist. She needs to know a lot about different kinds of fish, especially salmon. Select one species of salmon and be ready to tell her about it. Make a sketch of your species and explain how it is different from the other species.

5 Think about what you would do if you were lost in a storm. Share with a partner what you would do and why.

6. Sometimes we want to accomplish something special, something that might take a long time. It is easy to get discouraged and give up. Think about something you would like to accomplish. Write it down. Now, list steps you think you must complete on the trail to accomplishing your goal. Put the list in your room where you can see it. Check off each step as you work toward your goal.

Beverly Jerue Masek

Anvik Musher

Find the village of Anvik on a map of Alaska. What do you think it would have been like to grow up in Anvik? It is a village Beverly can tell you about.

The Early Years:

Beverly Jerue Masek is aDeg Hit'an Indian who grew up in Anvik with seven brothers and sisters. Her mother and father are Carl and Marsha Jerue. Beverly can tell you what it was like to trap in the winter and go to fish camp in the summer.

From her early years, Beverly has been acquainted with the sport of dog mushing. Her mother used to take part in dog races, which were often part of village celebrations. She not only took part in the races, but was considered an avid and successful musher. Because of her mother's influence, Beverly wasn't a stranger to dogs and dog racing. She learned about the Iditarod Race from two mushers who lived in Anvik. They were Ken Chase, who ran the first Iditarod in 1973, and Rudy Demoski, who ran the second Iditarod in 1974. While she was still a young lady in the village, Beverly helped Rudy Demoski and Ken Chase train their dogs for the Iditarod. I bet she was really excited when Anvik was one of the checkpoints in the 1977 Iditarod!

Mushing Career:

The Gold Miner's 140 Race in 1979 was Beverly's first competitive mushing experience. She was only 16 years old. She ran her first Iditarod race in 1983 when she was 19 years old. Beverly says she didn't have any trouble with her dogs during that race because she had trained them so well. She already knew about camping in the winter too because she had had lots of experience doing that. Even the sound of wolves howling didn't scare her. She didn't encounter any moose along the trail either. However, she did end up scratching in McGrath because of an unfortunate incident in Rainy Pass. She fell into a gully because an inexperienced musher had camped in the trail.

In 1984, Beverly had an experience on the Iditarod Trail that no other musher has had so far. On March 5, 1984, Beverly and Jan Masek, who was running the race, were married at the Finger Lake checkpoint! She first met Jan Masek in 1979 when he was in Anvik to buy fish. Imagine what a beautiful wedding it must have been. They stood in front of a musher's cabin on the banks of Finger Lake with the lovely spruce forest and the Alaska Range in the background. Col. Norman Vaughan, another well-known musher, officiated the ceremony. After the wedding, Jan continued running the race, and Beverly followed by small plane, tracking the progress of her new husband. It was an experience that made a real difference in her life!

In 1985, Jan and Beverly moved to Chena Hot Springs Lodge northeast of Fairbanks. They went there to manage the lodge. Now Beverly was doing something she liked to do. Also, she could continue to pursue her first love — dog mushing. It was also an exciting time to be at the Lodge because it had been selected as one of the checkpoints for the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race. The Yukon Quest is a 1,000 mile race between Fairbanks, Alaska, and Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada.

Another exciting event took place in 1985. Michael Jan Albert Masek, was born to Beverly and Jan. Having Michael didn't slow Beverly down. As a young boy, Michael would ride in the sled with Beverly while she trained. Sometimes his father, Jan, would watch him while Beverly was on the trail. Now that he is older, Michael has his own sled and dogs, and is following the family tradition of dog mushing. Watch for him in the Junior Iditarod in a few years.

Beverly, Jan, and Michael now live near Willow where Beverly is able to train. Although she has yet to make her mark in the Iditarod, Beverly is making steady progress towards her goals. She travels to remote villages and talks to other people about goal setting, motivation, achievement, and finishing the Iditarod. She tells them about herself, her life in the village, the goals she has set for herself and how hard she must work to attain these goals. She probably also tells them about disappointments, and how she continues to work toward goals she had established for herself. Watch for Beverly in future Iditarods.

Activities

1. On a map of Alaska, find Anvik. What river is this village located on? Go to the library and find some interesting fact about this river? Share it with the class.

2. What direction does the Iditarod Trail go from Anvik? What is the next checkpoint? How far is this checkpoint? If a team is traveling about 8 miles an hour, how long should it take to reach the next checkpoint?

3. If a yard of polar fleece costs and you can make booties from one yard of booties, how many yards of polar fleece will you need? How much will it cost?

4 Watch the newspaper during the Iditarod for a special happening in Anvik. What happened? How would you feel if you were the musher who received this? Why?

5. It's important that puppies have names so they can learn to respond to those names. This is very important when training starts. Pretend you have a new litter of 8 puppies. What would you name them? Why?

6. Take a piece of paper and divide it in half. On the top half of the paper draw a picture of something you might be able to do to help a musher. On the bottom half of the paper explain your picture.

Kate Persons

1991 Rookie of the Year

How easy is it to be Rookie of the Year in the Iditarod? Ask Kate. She will tell you that it takes lots of training and hard work. She will tell you that she had other race experience that also helped her. But wait, I'm getting ahead of myself. Who is Kate Persons? What has she done that you would like to do?

Early Years:

Kate's hometown is Iowa City, Iowa. She lived there until she went to Portland, Oregon to go to college. Oh, that's not exactly true either, because her father is a retired history professor. Every summer he would take a teaching job at a different university, either in the Lower 48 or in Europe. The whole family would go along for the summer. What a wonderful way to see the world! Kate says it instilled in her a tremendous love of traveling and curiosity about distant places, cultures, and ways of life that has influenced her throughout her life.

Kate always loved animals and the outdoors. Her earliest love of animals centered around horses. She began horseback riding when she was four years old and took riding lessons for many years. Although her parents were usually very supportive of her interests, there was one thing her mother refused to do. Kate's riding lessons ceased when the owner of the riding stable decreed that all mothers of her students would spend one morning a week cleaning horse stalls. That was just more than could be expected of even the most supportive mother!

Living on the edge of town, with a big woods behind the house provided a wonderful playground for Kate. It was a great place to explore and observe animals and nature. The shelves in her room were filled with aquariums of fish and terrariums containing frogs, toads, turtles, lizards, salamanders and snakes. She also had hamsters and talking parakeets. She says her greatest pal was Kiki, an orange tiger cat her parents gave her for her 7th birthday. Hardly any animal has gone unmentioned. How about a dog? Kate was told that the second word she learned was "dog", but she never had a dog. In fact she didn't even like dogs for many years because of some very bad experiences she had with them.

Kate's parents always encouraged her to pursue whatever interested her. They also instilled in her the belief that she could be or do anything that she put her mind to and efforts toward. I think you will be able to see how this has influenced her life. They also stressed the importance of education. Their philosophy was that everyone spends a large part of life earning a living, therefore, it's important to work at something you like. They impressed upon Kate that this is more likely to be possible, if you have a good education. Kate followed their advice. She says it has worked for her. Kate says since graduating from college she has never had a job that she didn't love!

Kate headed for Alaska the day she graduated from college in 1975. She worked for two years in Barrow at the Animal Research Facility in the Arctic Research Laboratory. Here she worked with many Arctic animals and met many interesting people. She worked with a polar bear, over 20 wolves, wolverines, Arctic foxes, lemmings, snowy owls, weasels, and a lynx. She loved taking walks with "June," a wolf that had been raised by people. She assisted scientists who came from all over the world to study how the animals adapted to the arctic environment.

Wanting to see more of Alaska, Kate got her pilot's license and bought a plane. Although she flew all over the state, Kate found that the beauty of the Kotzebue area kept drawing her back. In 1980, she moved to that area, got her first dogs, and started a team. During the summers, she works for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game; in the winters, she travels around northwest Alaska with her dogs.

In 1983, she took a full time job at the Sikusuilaq Salmon Hatchery on the Noatak River. This hatchery is forty miles from Kotzebue and must generate its own power and pump its own water. There are no roads. Travel to the hatchery is by snow machine, ski plane, or dog team in the winter and by boat or float plane in the summer. Oh, by the way, there are also carpentry, plumbing, and mechanical repairs needed when Kate isn't busy with the fish.

Mushing Career:

It's hard to have a dog team and not get interested in racing. Kate's first race was the Kobuk 220 in 1987. Although she had previously traveled by dog team for as much as a month at a time, she didn't find racing fun. She hated going without sleep. In fact she declared that she'd never do anything as stupid again! Well, not until the following year when she again ran the Kobuk 220. This time she was mentally prepared and enjoyed it so much that she decided to run the Yukon Quest.

She has run the Yukon Quest three times, each time finishing better than before. She has placed 6th, 5th, and 4th. The Yukon Quest is a very different race from the Iditarod. There are only six checkpoints along the 1000 mile trail! The sleds must be fully loaded with supplies and equipment because there is up to 300 miles to cover between some checkpoints. There are many other differences, too.

Kate says she loves both the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod, for different reasons. She feels the greatest challenge in the Iditarod is the stiff competition She adds that it is very inspirational to see so many beautifully trained teams and expert drivers. Kate's first experience in the Iditarod was in 1991. She finished tenth in her first time around. She was the first rookie, a person running the Iditarod for the first time, to cross under the Finisher's Arch in March of 1991.

There is another race that was run for the first time last year - Hope 91. Hope 91 was a goodwill race with the Soviets. The race led from Nome north to the Bering Sea coastal village of Wales where Soviet helicopters ferried the teams across the Bering Strait to Uelen(the village directly across from Wales) to continue the race.

Remember how Kate said traveling with her parents instilled in her a tremendous love of traveling and curiosity about distant places, cultures, and ways of life? Now you can understand why Kate says Hope 91 was the most exciting and enjoyable adventure she has ever undertaken. It combined two of her greatest passions: running dogs and foreign travel. She adds that it was a dream come true for her because she has wanted to travel by dog team in the Russian Far North ever since she started traveling with dogs.

Actually Hope 91 wasn't really a race. It's main purpose was to introduce the sport of dog racing to the people in the Soviet Far East. There were Russian mushers who joined the American mushers at Uelen. Everyone learned a great deal from each other. For the first 800 miles, all the mushers, both Russian and American, regrouped to spend the night together in a village or reindeer camp. The Russian people learned about American mushers. They were amazed at the speed of the American dogs and the special care the dogs received.

For Kate it was a chance to see the culture of the people and interact with them. In most of the villages along the way, hunting and reindeer herding were the basis of the economy. There were very few snowmachines. Dog teams were the main source of transportation. Their dogs are very different from the dogs in the American teams. Their dogs were big, heavy, hairy, work dogs. Kate says they were beautifully trained to do what was expected of them.

Kate says the people she met along the way were very kind. They were also anxious to find out about us and the way we live in Alaska. She says she is studying Russian so she will be able to communicate better with everyone when she runs in Hope 92. Oh, yes, Kate didn't tell me, but I just happened to know she won Hope 91. I wonder why I'm not surprised that such a remarkable woman could win such a race?

Activities

1. Select a "critter" that might have been found in an aquarium or terrarium in Kate's room when she was a little girl. Go to the library and see what interesting facts you can find about that "critter". Share your facts with the class.

2. While you are in the library, try to find a fiction book that has one of the creatures mentioned in Kate's biography. Record the title, author, and call number of the book. You may want to read the book and tell the class about it. Perhaps the class can compile a bibliography of the different books found.

3. There are 36 inches in a yard. If you use 4 inches of velcro for each bootie, how many yards of velcro will you need to make 500 booties?

4. The race from Nome to Anadyr in the Russian Far East, Hope 92, will be run again this year. It will start near the end of March. Watch for articles in the newspaper about this race, the people who will be in it, the race route and the people along the way. Make a scrapbook with your articles.

5. On a map of Alaska, find and mark Barrow, Kotzebue, Nome, Wales, and the Noatak River. Be able to tell the class why these places are important for Kate Persons.

6. There are no roads that go to the Sikusuilaq Springs Salmon Hatchery where Kate works. Draw a picture showing how you think might travel when she goes to Kotzebue. Write a caption for your picture.

Mary Ellen "Mellen" Shea

1992 Iditarod Rookie

Rookie? What is a rookie? A rookie is someone who is doing something for the first time. An Iditarod rookie is someone who is running the Iditarod for the first time. Mellen Shea is a rookie.

Mellen is a guidance counselor at West Anchorage High School in Anchorage. If you enjoy the outdoors, I bet you would enjoy having a teacher like Mellen Shea. She has done something that almost everyone with a love of the outdoors can identify with.

Early Years:

Mellen Shea liked animals and had pets when she was young. She had the usual cats and dogs and also frogs, snakes, injured birds and a raccoon. She did have a big problem though. Her mother would grow tired of Mellen's pets and often gave them away. Mellen says she hated that. One particular incident she remembers was a favorite dog named "Shaggy." Shaggy was a big, black very smart dog who learned to sit up on her hind legs, roll over, shake hands and do other tricks which Mellen spent hours teaching her. Mellen was broken hearted when her mother decided Shaggy had to go. In fact, she ran away from home for the whole day because she felt life without Shaggy was not going to be much fun. Mellen thinks that her mother's give-away-pet program is a major reason why she has had dogs or a dog team for the last 15 years.

Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts, Mellen's family home, is a small town in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains. It used to be quite rural and many people had small farms or worked in the textile factory. Mellen remembers it as a place with not much to do when she was growing up, but now she sees it as a quaint little artist town. Mellen, however, never seemed to be bored. She had both an older and a younger brother. Growing up with two brothers can be tough. At least, it can make you a "tough kid" if you are a girl who wants to keep up with her brothers! Consequently, she played baseball, football, downhill skied, and threw rocks across the Deerfield River or rowed her boat dangerously close to the dam. Keeping up with her brothers included climbing to the top of a 100 foot white pine tree in their backyard and finding various ways of returning to the deep snow below.

I asked Mellen who she remembers as being a special person in her life when she was young. Her answer was Jim Perkins, an Iroquois Indian. Jim would tell wonderful stories. He taught Mellen and a 6th grade friend how to Indian dance. She said he would outfit them in full war bonnets and take them to various bicentennial celebrations or festivals. There they would dance to his drum. She smiles when she thinks about people thinking she was his daughter - a blue-eyed Indian girl! Since then, Mellen has thought of herself as part Indian, at least in spirit. Perhaps these experiences were what led her to seek adventure in Minnesota and Canada. Says she chose the Indian name "Mini Ha Ha" which means Laughing Water.

She is quick to add that her parents were always very supportive and encouraged her in whatever she tried. According to Mellen, she wasn't a particularly good student in her early years, however, with her parents' encouragement, her self-esteem grew and she became much more confident. So confident that she graduated from college Magna Cum Laude, which means as an outstanding student!

Mushing Career:

Mellen is undertaking the 1992 Iditarod for the first time, but with great knowledge of the outdoors, dogs, and how to handle dogs. After college she spent several years in Minnesota as an Outward Bound instructor leading wilderness trips that sometimes lasted 25 days. Again, her Indian spirit was awakened as she paddled hundreds of miles in areas of Canada and Minnesota. During this time she also started to rock climb and mountain climb. Her mountain climbing experience led her to the summit of Mt. Logan in the Yukon Territory, Canada. Mt. Logan is 19,500 feet tall.

After her successful climb of Mt Logan, Mellen moved to Willow, Alaska. She intended to live in a tipi for the winter, but by Christmas she decided that it was a bit cold to stay in the tipi and made other living arrangements. It was during this time that Mellen began teaching and coaching in Wasilla and Palmer. She also met Donna Gentry who was a major sprint musher at that time. This was to be a major milestone in her life.

Donna gave Mellen her first mushing lesson and her first Alaskan husky. It seemed only right to name this dog after the first place she had lived in Alaska - Willow. Mellen helped Donna by assisting in the dog lot by doing such chores as cleaning the lot every day, putting new straw in the doghouses often, and carefully feeding the dogs. Mushers always need an extra pair of hands when hooking their teams to the sled. When they are training, mushers may run several teams a day to see which dogs she/he will want in the main team. They also try to run every day. Mushers also need help when they come in from a run, taking off the dogs' harnesses, watering them and returning them to their proper places in the lot. You can certainly see how Mellen could help Donna! Mellen learned many things while helping Donna with all these daily tasks. In return, Donna taught Mellen the basics of dog mushing. Mellen says she fell off the sled a lot and made many mistakes! Even so she quickly realized that she loved dog mushing.

In 1977, Mellen began teaching in Anchorage, where she is to this day. Even though she left the Willow area, she didn't leave her love of dogs and the sport of dog mushing. Her first Alaskan husky, "Willow", came to Anchorage with Mellen. She enjoyed the company of her canine friend for thirteen years. It was Willow's puppies who made up Mellen's first dog team.

Dog mushing is not Mellen's only sport involving dogs. She was introduced to skijoring when she arrived in Anchorage. Pulka racing is also an interesting sport which Mellan enjoys. She has also been sprint racing in local races. In fact she has done quite well sprint racing.She thinks she may have the only dog team in town that can skijor, mush, and fetch a ball!

Now you see why I said in the beginning that students who enjoy the outdoors would enjoy having Mellan Shea for a teacher or counselor. This is certainly someone who is lives up to the saying "You can do anything you think you can do!"

Activities

1. Mellen enjoys skijoring and pulka racing. Try to find out what kinds of sports these are. Explain one of them to the class. Watch the Sports Section of the newspaper for examples of these sports.

2. Mellen also enjoys sprint racing. Find out how sprint racing is different from racing in the Iditarod.

3. Polar fleece is a kind of material used for dog booties. If it costs $8.99 a yard, how much will 25 yards of polar fleece cost?

4. Look at pictures of what the mushers are wearing. Draw a picture of a typical musher. Draw another picture of what people are wearing where you live. Put a caption under each explaining why people are dressed the way you show.

5. Jim Perkins was a special person in Mellen's life when she was growing up. How do you think he influenced her life? Is there someone who is special in your life? If so, you may want to share with the class why that person is special.

6. On a map of the United States and Canada, find the places mentioned where Mellen lived and/or traveled.

Other Women Who Have Run the Iditarod

You have just read about a few of the more well known women who represent all the women who have run the Iditarod, but there are other equally strong, lesser known women who deserve recognition. I would like to introduce you to some of these other women who have established a place for themselves in the world of dog mushing.

There were two women who ran the Iditarod in 1974, the second year of the race. They were the first women to ever run this race. **Mary Shields** was one of these first woman to run the Iditarod. She now lives in Fairbanks and is still working with sled dogs. There is a video, Season of the Sled Dog, that is about Mary and her dog team and life in Alaska. The other woman who ran that year was **Lolly Medley**. Lolly has a harness shop in Wasilla, Alaska. She sponsors the Golden Harness Award. This award is presented each year to the lead dog that displays a consistent and outstanding quality of performance during the Iditarod.

Varona Thompson ran the Iditarod three times. She ran it first in 1977, and, in 1978, was one of the first two women to finish in the top twenty.

Donna Gentry was a sprint racer before she ran the Iditarod. She was also the first woman to ever run in the "men's " Fur Rondy race. In fact she was second in the Fur Rondy Race in 1976. Donna ran the Iditarod two times. The first year, 1980, she came in tenth and was Rookie of the Year. Donna has also been the Race Marshall. This is a very important position. The Race Marshall is in charge of all major decisions on the trail during the race. These decisions can really impact the results of the race. Some decisions which must be considered are weather conditions, whether supplies are at the checkpoints, and, occasionally, whether a musher should be disqualified.

Sue Firmin, who grew up in Anchorage and has been mushing dogs since she was twelve years old, also ran the Iditarod. Sue ran the Iditarod times. She also ran the Kusko 300 several times. Unfortunately, she had to stop running the Iditarod because she has a knee injury which hurts a great deal on such a long sled trip. However, Sue is still interested in dogs and helps train dogs for other people to run in the Last Great Race.

Diana Dronenberg is a person who has the courage of her convictions. In 1990, Diana dedicated her race to AIDS Awareness. She said, "Just as diptheria was a crisis facing the town of Nome in 1925, AIDS is a serious crisis facing the entire world today. We must do something and I feel awareness and education is a good place to begin." There was a banner on her sled that read, "IDITAROD; A TRAIL OF HOPE:1925 - Diptheria, 1990 - AIDS". Diana is also a participant in the HOPE event which links Alaskan and Russian mushers. She plans to be the go-between for students in some of our schools in Alaska and students in schools located in the Russian Far East cities that will be Hope 92 checkpoints.

Rose Albert is a Native Alaskan woman from Ruby who has run the Iditarod. Rose crossed the finish line at Nome in 32nd place. According to the 1983 Iditarod Trail Annual, Rose received letters wishing her good luck all the way from Saudia Arabia.

Clara Phillip is from Paris, France. She, too, has run the Iditarod and still follows the Iditarod very closely each year. She helps her husband, also a Frenchman, train for the race.

There have been women mushers from other countries, too. **Leslie Monk** is from England. **Kari Skogen** came from Vaagaa, Norway. **Nina Hotvedt** is another musher from Andebu, Norway. She placed 19th in 1986.

Kathy Halverson is a teacher who ran the Iditarod. She is remembered because she was with a group of mushers who came upon another musher who was almost unconscious. They didn't know what was wrong with him so Kathy and several other mushers stayed with him while another musher drove a team to the next checkpoint. There they were able to get a ham radio operator to send a message to get medical help for the musher.

Leslie Monk, from England, finished the race once and had to scratch one time when her boots became soaked and she couldn't get them dry. She was afraid of frostbite which can cause a person to lose their feet. It was a very difficult decision for Leslie to decide to scratch. She had been training a long time for the race and did not want to stop. However, if you thought you might lose your feet because of frostbite, what would you do?

Carolyn Muegge-Vaughan has a very interesting story. She used to live in Georgia and came to Alaska for a winter to have the experience of living in Alaska for a winter. She ran the Iditarod once alone and then married Colonel Norman Vaughan and ran another Iditarod with him.

As you can see, each woman is interesting. I'm sure a book could be written about each woman who has run the Iditarod. They come from many places, many backgrounds, and have many vocations and professions. Perhaps the three things that all these women have in common are their love of animals, their love of the outdoors, and the love of adventure! Most of all, each has had a dream, and each has worked hard to make that dream come true. **You, too, can dream and you, too, can make your dreams come true with lots and lots of hard work! Great dreams and good luck!**

Karin Schmidt

Chief Veterinarian for 1992

How does a love of critters translate into being a veterinarian and a musher? Perhaps learning something about Karin Schmidt will help answer this question.

Early years:

Karin was born in Cologne, Germany and came to America when she was five years old. Her parents first immigrated to Canada, where they lived for two years, then they moved to the United States and lived in Washington, North Carolina and Texas. Karin had decided she wanted to be a veterinarian by the time she was six years old. She realized that it would take many years of hard work and studying to become a vet, but that did not stop her. She says a very tolerant mother allowed her to enjoy all kinds of pets when she was young. She had the usual dogs and cats, but she also had snakes, rodents, insects, and ducks. Karin said she actually enjoyed the company of animals more than people when she was younger. Her father's influence was also very strong. She says her parents were always supportive of what she wanted to do. Her older brother also challenged her in camping, climbing, repelling and other outdoor activities - a challenge, no doubt, that she was always ready to accept. Karin went to high school, college and then to veterinarian school in Texas. She graduated from Texas A&M University, College of Veterinary Medicine in 1981, thus realizing the goal she had decided upon when she was six years old!

The influence of her family was and still is strong in Karin's life. She wanted to go somewhere different after graduation from veterinarian school in 1981. Like many other independent people who want to do something "different", she decided to come to Alaska. She packed everything she could get into her car and started North. Fairbanks was her destination. There she worked her way into a job as a veterinarian.

Mushing Career:

It's no surprise that Karin was drawn to the sport of dog mushing. She had always loved animals and had a special relationship with dogs. Her first sled dog was a St. Bernard mix which she acquired in 1981. She made her first sled out of 2X6 boards and old skis! Imagine what that first sled must have looked like! I guess Karin had a problem finding a lead dog. She says that she was really the lead dog for the first year.

In 1984, a new long distance race was organized in Alaska, called the Yukon Quest. It's a race that goes between Fairbanks and Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada. Karin organized the veterinary services for this first Yukon Quest. People associated with the race were very pleased with dog care under Karin's supervision. They were so pleased that Karin continued as the head veterinarian for the Yukon Quest in 1985 and 1986. Especially since this was strictly a volunteer job.

No one who knew Karin was surprised when she started to race in 1986. Since then, she has raced in the Yukon Quest, in the Coldfoot Classic, the Kuskokwim 300, and the Frosty Fiddler. In 1989, the inevitable happened: Karin raced in her first Iditarod. People remember that she was always concerned about other mushers and their dogs along the trail.

In 1992 Karin will be the head veterinarian for the running of the twentieth Iditarod Sled Dog Race. Can there be any question that she is well qualified for this position? As chief veterinarian her job begins well before the race ever starts. She is responsible for selecting other volunteer veterinarians. Twenty six veterinarians working before and during the race will be under her supervision. These vets are men and women who are veterinarians in Alaska, other parts of the United States, and, sometimes, from foreign countries. They must examine every dog before it can run in the Iditarod. There will also be veterinarians at all the checkpoints along the trail to examine any dog that might need medical care. Karin will need to decide which vet will go to each checkpoint and make sure she/he is there.

She is working on an educational program to prepare these vets for what to expect on the trail since many of them are unfamiliar with Alaska. She must order all the medical supplies which may be needed along the trail. To do this she needs to anticipate what might happen along the trail. Once the medical supplies arrive, it is an important responsibility of the chief vet to see that all the supplies get to the many checkpoints. Of course, Karin will also be along the trail watching for dogs who need medical care and dispensing tender loving care to each and every dog she sees. I bet she will also have encouraging words for discouraged mushers along the way. After all, Karin understands. She has run enough races, including the Iditarod, to know that mushers get tired and discouraged at times.

Karin has some wonderful advice for anyone who owns a dog or any other pet. Make sure you give proper attention to your pets every day. Be consistent! It is critical for their well being. This includes feeding, giving them fresh water and special one-on-one play time for each pet. One very important thing to remember in the wintertime is to make sure there is water for any dog that might be kept outside. Trying to get water by eating snow only makes the dog more thirsty. If your dog is kept outside, it should have a doghouse. Straw in the doghouse is also very nice. It will make the dog much more comfortable. It is also very important that your animals have their shots. It will help prevent them from getting sick. Just remember that your pets can be your best friend. It is very important to remember that your pet is totally dependent on its master for a healthy and good life. Don't let them down!

Activities

1. Sometimes a dog's feet may get sore during a race. This can be caused by ice balls between their toes, or, perhaps, by a cut. Then the mushers put booties on the dogs to protect their feet. The musher must carry two sets of booties for each dog with them at all times. A set of booties consists of four booties. If there are 18 dogs in the team, how many booties must the musher have with her/him?

2. If each bootie cost $.55, how much will it cost to buy enough booties for 12 dogs to have 24 booties each?

3. It is very important to take good care of your pets. Select a pet you have or would like to have and list all the things you can do to make its life more pleasant.

4. If you live in a community where there is a humane society or an animal control shelter, get someone to take you there for a visit. Report back to the class what you saw and why animals were there.

5. Draw a picture of something nice happening to a dog. Write a paragraph telling about your picture.

6. Would you like to be a veterinarian? Explain your answer.

Women Who Have Run the Iditarod

1986

73 racers started
55 racers finished

Susan Butcher -1st
Nina Hotvedt - 19th
Kari Skogen - 33th
Pat Danley - 50th

1987

63 racers started
50 racers finished

Susan Butcher - 1st
Diane Droneburg - 14th
Sue Firmin - 21st
DeeDee Jonrowe - 22nd
Claire Philip - 26th
Pat Danly - 39th
Rhodi Karella - 50th
Libby Riddles - scratched
Carolyn Muegge - scratched

1988

52 racers started
45 racers finished

Susan Butcher - 1st
DeeDee Jonrowe - 9th
Lucy Nordlum - 13th
Peryll Kyzer - 32nd
Jennifer Gourley - 40th
Leslie Anne Monk - 45th

1989

49 racers started
38 racers finished

Susan Butcher - 2nd
DeeDee Jonrowe - 4th
Libby Riddles - 16th
Diana Dronenburg - 24th
Jamie Nelson - 25th
Karin Schmidt - 29th
Pat Danley - 31st
Kathy Halverson - 32nd

1990

70 racers started
61 racers finished

Susan Butcher - 1st
DeeDee Jonrowe - 5th
Diana Dronenberg - 28th
Beverly Masek - 35th
Lynda Plettner - 44th

1991

76 racers started
60 racers finished

Susan Butcher - 3th
DeeDee Jonrowe - 7th
Kate Persons - 11th
Peryll Kyzer - 18th
Beverly Masek - 21st
Pat Danley - 48th
Lynda Plettner - 52nd
Catherine Mormile - 58th

Activities

1. Working in cooperative learning groups, list 5 character traits you think an Iditarod musher should have. Share your ideas with the class.
2. Using the information above, make a bar graph showing which character traits the class feels are most important. Discuss the reasons for your choices.
3. How many women have run the Iditarod more than once. Make a bar graph showing how many times each woman has run the Last Great Race.
4. Would you like to run the Iditarod? Give reasons for your answer.
5. Draw a picture showing something you remember about one of the women you have read about. See if others can identify what you are showing.

Women Behind the Iditarod

It takes more than mushers, dogs and sleds to stage the Iditarod. Long before the teams appear on Fourth Avenue many people have worked long hours to get ready for this race.

It has been said that it takes eleven support people working behind the scenes for every combat soldier on the front line. The same might be said for the Iditarod. For every musher leaving Fourth Avenue in Anchorage, there are MANY people working behind the scenes.

This section focuses on three women behind the scenes. These women are only three of many extremely important women who make the Iditarod what it is today. Two women started out as volunteers and are now on the Iditarod staff. They are important links between the race and the rest of the year. They offer the continuity — the historical perspective — needed for such an operation. The third woman is a volunteer. She accepted the challenge of developing a computer program capable of tracking the dogs from Anchorage to Nome. But, she isn't ready to say that her job is done. She is constantly working to make the computer program better.

Joanne Potts

Race Coordinator

How does a minister's wife, Sunday School teacher, church deacon, former math teacher, and general community volunteer become the Iditarod Race Coordinator? And, what does the Iditarod Race Coordinator do? Ask Joanne Potts. She'll tell you.

Volunteers have always been a very important part of the Iditarod. In fact, there is no way to have a successful Iditarod without volunteers — lots of volunteers. Joanne began as a volunteer. She saw her first Iditarod race in 1976. In 1977 she agreed to answer phones at the race headquarters in Anchorage, a couple of hours a week. At that time there were only two phones. They didn't need as many volunteers then, but in 1991 there were twelve phones and people answered them twenty-four hours a day.

But, back to Joanne. In 1978, she volunteered to answer the phones at headquarters again. This time she worked more hours because she now was an "experienced" volunteer. She had already been a volunteer the year before! By 1989, she was placed in charge of a new race headquarters in Eagle River. This was a new information center created because people in Eagle River were very interested in the race. A number of the mushers came from Eagle River, but the only information center was in Anchorage.

By 1981, Joanne was a veteran volunteer! She found that her role as an Iditarod volunteer was becoming an "around the clock" job. She wasn't working just for two to three weeks in March — no way! It was from the middle of February until the end of March. In fact, her volunteering at Iditarod began to interfere with tutoring and substitute teaching in Anchorage. So, she gave up both tutoring and substitute teaching!

Joanne's volunteering turned into a "part-time" job when she agreed to "fill-in" until permanent help could be found at the Iditarod office. That was in 1982. She is now starting her eighth year as the race coordinator. It has become a full time position and Joanne is recognized as a full-time coordinator. Joanne say this title is a little deceiving. She doesn't really coordinate the race. There is a race manager who coordinates what happens on the trail.

Joanne's job is to make sure everything that pertains to the race — off the trail — happens like it is suppose to happen. She is in charge of all banquets and headquarters. She does a lot of public relations work with the public and the press. This includes writing hundreds of letters a month to people all over the world. She especially enjoys working with the press. A very important part of her job the contact with the mushers prior to the start of the race. If a musher has a question about something during the year, she/he calls Joanne.

Another important job for Joanne is to meet and talk to all the tourists visiting the Headquarters and museum at Wasilla. They have many questions. Most of them have heard about the race and want to know more about it. There was an article in Learning Magazine several years ago about the Iditarod. Joanne's work increased a lot since then. The first year after the article was printed, over 1,000 teachers wrote asking for more information about the Iditarod Race. Since then, more teachers have written each year for information about The Last Great Race. Joanne develops a Teacher's Packet each year to send to these teachers. There have been so many requests that the Iditarod must now charge for the packets. There were over 1,500 requests for the packets last year. There are approximately 2500 requests for this year! Joanne also writes much of the materials found in the Iditarod Runner, the official publication of the Iditarod.

Joanne stays very busy in Anchorage for the first eight to ten days of the race. This year, 1992, the race will start on February 29. After the first eight to ten days, she hurries to Nome to see the first musher come across the finish line.

Being in a hurry sometimes produces shocking results. Imagine how shocked Joanne was when she was arrested on her way to Nome one year. She didn't know why! She had a hand gun in her carry-on luggage. Joanne knew that was not allowed, however, in her haste to get to the plane, she forgot about the hand gun that was to be a raffle prize. It took quite a bit of time and talking before she was released! Needless to say, Joanne now thinks carefully about what is in her carry-on luggage.

In 1991, Joanne became a victim of the weather. She was stuck in Kotzebue and unable to get to Nome to see the early mushers arrive. Joanne and twenty-five other people had to listen to the finish of the race on KNOM radio at the Kotzebue Airport. Three of the people happened to be people Joanne had written to about the race. They were on their way to Nome from Kansas to see the finish of the 1991 Iditarod. Instead of seeing the finish of the race, they spent 10 1/2 hours in the airport in Kotzebue. I think I might have been really disappointed if I had come all the way from Kansas to see the end of the race, and then missed seeing the first person come across the line. I hope they got to see some of the other people cross the finish line. After all, everyone who finishes a race like the Iditarod is a winner! Maybe not THE winner, but certainly a winner.

When asked for her evaluation of the Iditarod, Joanne's replied, "The Iditarod is a great event. People involved in mushing have a rapport with their animals that is hard to find. I admire the way mushers take care of and respect their dogs. I think the Iditarod is promoting better care for working animals and it's a great sport for people who don't want to play football, or basketball, or baseball. It promotes the history of our state and I've always liked history." With an attitude like that no wonder Joanne is the public relations person for "The Last Great Race!"

Activities

1. The Race Coordinator starts the race in Anchorage on Fourth Avenue. Pretend you are the race coordinator. Your job is to start a team from the starting line every two minutes. Place Number 1 is honorary, so you start the first real musher at 9:02 a.m. There are 45 teams in the race. What time will musher 45 leave Anchorage?

2. With another person pretend one of you is a reporter and the other one is Joanne. Write an interview. Decide what questions the "reporter" will ask and then research the answers. Then preform the skit for the class.

3. Lots of tourists visit the Iditarod Headquarters in Wasilla every year. Make a list of five questions which you think they might ask.

4. Fourth Avenue on race day is a very busy place. Draw a picture showing what you think it might look like on Fourth Avenue on the day of the Iditarod.

5. You are a reporter for a newspaper in an area where people do not know about the Iditarod. Your editor wants you to write an article introducing the race to the people of that area. You cannot use more than 100 words. What would you write? Remember the what, where, when, why, and how of reporting.

6. People are coming from California to Alaska to see the finish of the Iditarod. They write to you requesting information about weather, clothes to bring, and transportation from Anchorage to Nome. What would you tell them? Don't forget both means of traveling to Nome and cost of traveling to Nome!

Lois Harter

Communications Coordinator

Watch what you do when you try to overcome boredom! If you don't believe me, ask Lois Harter. She's a lady who came to Alaska by way of Florida and Arizona. Her arrival in Alaska in September of 1974 marked the beginning of a most unusual future. In March of 1975, when Lois was complaining of boredom, a friend invited her to come and volunteer at Iditarod Headquarters during the Third Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Lois recalls that it was Sunday, the second day of the race. The Headquarters consisted of a small room in the "inner sanctom" of the Anchorage Hilton Hotel in Anchorage. This room contained several tables and two telephones. It was full of people sitting around the table and talking that first day. She was introduced to everyone and everyone seemed very nice. They told her about the communications procedure. They told her there were licensed amateur radio "ham" operators across town who were communicating with other operators on the trail. Then the radio operators in Anchorage would call the Headquarters and relay the information. Of course, they had to explain what a "ham" operator was, an amateur radio operator that operates a radio for pleasure, not for pay. They continued explaining that this was the main source of communication between the Iditarod Headquarters in Anchorage and the racers and other people on the trail.

Those involved in the communications procedures provide a lifeline for it is the only way in most cases for the racers to communicate their needs and wants to someone who could help them. It was the way volunteer pilots, "the Iditarod Air Force", was able to know where they were needed or what was needed. She thought the idea of volunteering with all those people around would be a piece of cake.

It was such fun, sitting around chatting and occasionally taking a phone call, that Lois returned on Monday morning. When she arrived on Monday morning, as Lois remembers it, there was only one man in the room. He was very gracious. He immediately made her feel welcome and explained how the communications worked - again. She felt very comfortable helping with communications, for after all, there would be other people coming in shortly who knew what they were doing. Or so she thought! That feeling was short-lived for as soon as the man explained to Lois the communications procedure, he announced, "Boy, am I glad you're here" Now I can get some sleep!" He promptly got up and left. So, only on her second day, she found herself quickly alone at Headquarters in charge of communications. By now, she was wishing that she had paid closer attention to everything that had happened on Sunday. She wished she knew what to do when people called to send messages, or when that phone rang and a "ham" was on the line with a message for Headquarters!. Thus started Lois's seventeen year career with the Iditarod. Oh yes, at one time Lois was married to an Iditarod "ham." She, too, became a licensed "ham" in December 1987.

Lois was truly "on the fast track". By race time in 1976 Lois was in charge of the Iditarod Headquarters. That meant she was in charge of public relations and logistics for the entire Iditarod Race. She discovered this volunteer job started long before the first day of the race. Being in charge of Headquarters meant she was in charge of almost everything!

Until recent years, the only communications from most areas along the Iditarod Trail was by "ham" radio. An immediate priority for Lois was to make sure there were people who would be in charge of radio operations at each checkpoint. It was extremely important to have every checkpoint covered! That was the way the Iditarod Headquarters found out where each musher was, where all the dogs were, and what was needed where. The pilots, who are also all volunteers, depend on the "hams" to let them know where they should be and what they need. Mushers on the trail have depended on "ham" operators over the years for medical help, supplies, and getting information to and from their contacts at home.

Another part of Lois' job is getting all the mushers' supplies out on the trail before the race starts. These are called "food drops" although other things are in these drops. This is a very important early task! Before the race, mushers must prepare food for their dogs and themselves as well as decide on additional clothes, harnesses, booties, and anything else they might need on the trail. The next task for the mushers is to decide where they want to send their supplies and how much they want at each checkpoint. Things that must be considered when making these decisions are where they will take their 24-hour layover, how many dogs they will probably still have at the appointed time, and how far it is between checkpoints. Then all their supplies are put into bags with the names of each checkpoint on them. The mushers must also be very careful to put their names on the bags, too. Many of them try to do something distinctive to their bags so they are easier to find.

All of this is very critical because the mushers cannot possibly carry everything they need with them all the way. Supplies must be turned in on a specific date. After this date, it is Lois's responsibility to get them to the correct checkpoints in good condition. Each musher will deliver between 2500 and 4000 pounds to the Iditarod Trail Committee. Lois recalls that this was a real nightmare one year when it was decided that these "drops" would, indeed, be dropped by parachute instead of having planes land and unload everything in an orderly manner. Imagine her horror to find out that 60 to 70 tons of Iditarod mushers' supplies were strewn over the tundra and in trees between Anchorage and Nome!

She has also had some anxious moments when pilots have been unaccounted for or plane crashes have been reported. There was grave concern in 1989 when it was reported that a musher was suffering from possible hypothermia. It was Lois's job to get medical help to the musher and make arrangements for his evacuation.

Fortunately a medical doctor was working as a volunteer "ham" operator at Grayling. Lois arranged for him to be flown to Iditarod to take care of the ill musher until he could be "MEDIVACed". Of course, she also had to make arrangements to get the musher from the checkpoint in Iditarod to the clinic in McGrath, and then to a hospital in Anchorage. By the way, later reports showed the musher was not suffering from hypothermia; he had salmonella. I'm glad to report the musher was soon released from the hospital.

Another part of Lois's job is getting the "dropped" dogs returned to Anchorage or Nome and make sure someone takes care of them properly until the owner or designated person comes for them. Of course, there are the light moments, too, such as when a pilot reported sighting someone mushing across the Farewell Burn wearing long red underwear. Upon closer investigation, she found that it wasn't because the driver had lost clothes, but just that it was so hot. Being so hot, it was extremely uncomfortable to wear all the clothes that one usually thinks of wearing on the Iditarod Trail in March.

Lois eventually became a paid employee of the Iditarod Trail Committee. She is now the Communications Coordinator. Logistics and public relations have to be turned over to others. In 1992, she will have a new challenge. The FCC has ruled that "ham" radios can no longer be used as the chief means of communications along the trail. Remember I said earlier that "ham" operators were amateur radio operators, so they cannot compete with other means of communications. Lois and her committee must put together an entire new communications system. The 1992 race will be testing this new system.

Would you expect Lois to get very tired during the Iditarod? You bet she does! Remember there are mushers running twenty-four hours a day, people are calling for information, not to mention the emergencies reported on the trail. Lois must be ready to respond to all of these things, twenty-four hours a day, for over two weeks. Is it any wonder that Lois is very tired after the Race is over? In my view, Lois Harter, is another "unsung" hero behind the scenes of the Iditarod Trail International Sled Dog Race.

Fran Hall

Computer Programmer

Fran Hall has always loved dogs and the outdoors. When she lived in the Lower 48, she owned an AKC champion showdog which she trained and showed herself. She also worked on AKC Obedience Training with each dog that she has owned over the years. Fran feels that obedience training is really fun and the dog does not have to be a registered purebred to compete in Obedience Matches. She also feels that it is an excellent way to assure the safety of your dog because teaching your dog to obey you will enable you to keep it out of dangerous situations.

She first became interested in dog racing many years ago when she lived in Massachusetts and had a purebred Siberian Husky. Her local veterinarian used to travel to Alaska every year to race his dogs. It wasn't until she moved to Anchorage in late 1988 and became involved in the Iditarod as a volunteer that she discovered that 'her local vet' from so long ago was THE Roland Lombard - Fur Rondy legend! Yes, dogs have always been an important part of Fran's life. I have even heard that dogs played a very significant part in the developing relationship between Fran and her husband.

Hiking, camping and whitewater rafting are other interests of Fran's. Fran has hiked and camped all over the United States from the White Mountains in New England to the Sierra Nevada in California plus the Colorado Rockies and the Wind River Range in Wyoming. While living in California, Fran also became a whitewater rafting guide and traveled rivers in California, Oregon, Idaho, Colorado, the Grand Canyon in Arizona, and since 1988, in Alaska!

Fran's first tour to Alaska was not just the ordinary tourist trip! No, sir! She rode on her own motorcycle. She was part of a small convoy of three people and three bikes who traveled north from California. She says they traveled on almost every road in Alaska during their six and one-half week adventure. Fran then says, "Alaska captured the imagination of my husband and myself and we moved here in 1988."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Is it any wonder that Fran, with her love of dogs, love of adventure and the outdoors, was drawn to the Iditarod? She explains that the Iditarod Sled Dog Race combines all three of her favorite interests. Since she isn't ready to be a competitor, the natural thing to do is to participate as an Iditarod Volunteer.

At the first volunteer meeting for the 1989 Iditarod, she overheard the race director, Joanne Potts, say that she needed a computer program to track the race. "I'll write one," Fran offered. She says that she didn't think anyone really took her seriously. However, she managed to get the software tools she needed (a compiler for her Macintosh) and began work just a week before the race started. It was a tough job but since her profession is software engineering, she was able to create a program that got everyone through the '89 race. She then improved the computer program for both the '90 and '91 races. Now she is working on a new version for the 1992 race.

When Fran first developed her computer program to track the mushers, she had to spend long hours in the computer room . She was trying to track all the mushers and their dogs and keep the records current on the computer. Now, there is a fairly regular crew of volunteers who work in the computer room. There is always someone there during the race, entering data and preparing reports for the media and the Race Information Center (phone room). Even with additional staff, Fran still puts in many, many hours both improving the program she has developed and working with it during the race.

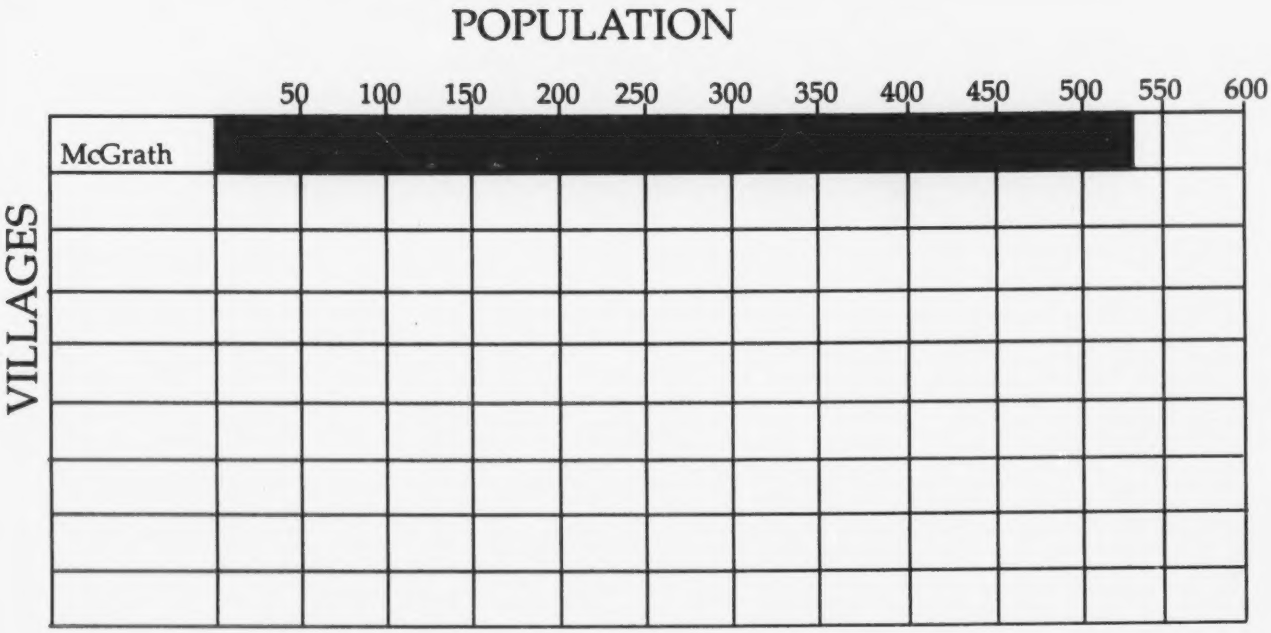
Fran doesn't own any dogs right now: she is currently content, somewhat, having two cats own her. However, she is a much sought after dog handler at the beginning of the Iditarod, and is certainly a key component in the overall race as "The official Iditarod Computer Programmer". This is an accomplishment that she is very proud of. Although she is not out on the trail with her own dogs, being on the Iditarod team in the computer room at Headquarters keeps her right on top of the race from start to finish. Fran's advice to anyone who is interested in the Iditarod is that the Iditarod provides a special situation because anyone who wants to be part of this international sporting event can be a volunteer. It all starts with, "I can do it."

Activities

1. Why do you think the computer operators work 24 hours a day during the Iditarod?

2. What does Fran think about obedience training for dogs? Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

3 Select 8 villages along the Iditarod Trail. Graph the population of each:



4. Why do you think mushers would want Fran to help handle their dogs?

5. How did Fran get involved with the Iditarod?

6. Select a village along the Iditarod Trail. Try to find out if you can communicate with them via electronic mail. If so, establish an electronic mail communications network with them. You might want to research this before the race. During the race that school could send you messages relative to race progress via computer

Activities

1. If 10 dogs are dropped at Skwenta, 15 at Rainy Pass, 12 at Nikolai, and 13 at McGrath, how many dogs are dropped between Anchorage and Ophir?

2. Food drops must be ready and delivered to a designated spot by certain days near the middle of February. Then the Logistics Coordinator is responsible for seeing that everything gets to the checkpoints. If Musher #1 has 2500 pounds, Musher #2 has 2800 pounds, Musher #3 has 4000 pounds, Musher #4 has 3800 pounds, and Musher #5 delivers 2200 pounds to the food drop center, what is the average weight of the five food drops?

3. Communication between a checkpoint and Iditarod Headquarters may depend on the location and size of the checkpoint. Select a village along the Iditarod Trail. Compare your life with the life of a student in that village. Here are some things you might want to compare.

	My life in ________________	Life in ____________________
Housing		
My school		
Food		
Transportation		
Recreation		

4. Select a village along the Iditarod Trail and research how you would get from where you live to that village. Be sure you also find out how much it would cost to get there from where you live.

5. Make a scrapbook of your class activities and send to a class in the village you select. This could be a class activity.

6. What does FCC stand for?

7. One musher became ill on the trail with salmonella. Ask the school nurse or health aide to explain to the class the symptoms of salmonella and what to do if you ever think you have it?

Volunteers and the Iditarod

You have read about three specific women who do very important jobs for the Iditarod. But, there are many more people who make contributions to the Iditarod. They do many different things.

Many of the tasks necessary to stage a successful Iditarod are done by volunteers.A large percentage of these volunteers are women. It is estimated that it would cost one million dollars to pay for the work done by these volunteers each year.

Mushers need volunteers to help get their food drops ready. I have been one of two who have helped with this task. I have also been one of 15 who has worked on preparing everything necessary for the trail. Dog food must be packed in packages that go in bags for each checkpoint. Dogs of the Iditarod don't eat the same food as your pet dog. Dry dog food is packed, along with vitamins and other special snacks. Different kinds of meats (including beaver meat) are prepared and packed in individual checkpoint servings. Frankly, I dislike working with beaver, but it is an important high energy food for dogs. What about booties? Each mushers needs about 1000 of them! Volunteers are busy every year sewing thousands of booties. They, too, must be packaged and placed at each checkpoint. There must also be extra harnesses, lines, snaps and sled runners at each checkpoint. And, what about batteries and foot medicine? Mushers need food and clothes along the way, too! Often volunteers prepare food for the mushers to enjoy during the race—something they can eat while riding on the runners along the trail. After all, during the time the team is stopped, most of the musher's time is spent caring for their dogs!

Volunteers worked especially hard on the first day of the race. On the starting day, women and men are on Fourth Avenue putting snow on the streets and putting up fences to keep people from crowding around the dogs. There are people who direct the dog trucks, pass out the bibs, and mark the dogs with paint. They mark each dog to ensure that no new dog joins the team once the race has begun. Marking each team a different way, makes it easier to tell which dogs belong to the same team. There are also sled holders at the starting line. They hold the sled during the countdown to the start of the race. They then release the dogs and the musher takes off down Fourth Avenue. There are also crossing guards at street intersections to prevent accidents. There are even security guards to ensure all the dogs and drivers are protected!

When it is time to take the team to the starting line, it is very important to have enough handlers to control the team. The dogs are very strong and anxious to get started! It is best to have at least one person for every two dogs. There must also be someone on the "second sled," the sled tied behind the front sled during the first part of the race. This person rides behind, usually as far as Knik, to help in case the musher needs assistance. There might also be people in both the main sled and the second sled going up to the starting line. This extra weight helps control the team.

There is a checker at each checkpoint. Many of the checkers are women. They sign the musher in at each checkpoint and make sure that the number of dogs in the

KOYUK
NULATO
UNALAKLEET
SHAKTOOLIK
KALTAG
OPHIR
PRO PLAN

team are the same as were in the team at the last stop. They must also check for mandatory gear — the things each musher must have. If a dog needs to be removed from the team for any reason, the checker makes note of this and makes sure the dog is properly cared for until it can be taken to Anchorage or Nome.

We have talked about the importance of "ham" radio operators already. They are the people who operate the amateur radios during the Iditarod race. They have been very important during the past nineteen years of the Iditarod. They were the communications network that let the Iditarod Headquarters know what was happening along the trail. There have been many times over the years when "ham" operators sent messages of great need from the trail. Because they are "the lifeline of the trail," these volunteers must be available 24 hours a day during the race.

Remember the veterinarians who check all the dogs before the race? They also check the dogs at every checkpoint. The dogs are finally examined at the end of the race to ensure they are still healthy. The veterinarians are all volunteers too. They come from all over the world.

Back at headquarters many volunteers work at the Race Information Center. This is where people call to find out where their favorite musher is in the race. Radio stations call from all over the United States. Individuals call from all over the world! The Race Information Center has received calls from Florida, Georgia, Arizona, Iowa, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Paris in just a couple of hours. Yes, Paris — Paris, France. Once, a woman called from Australia, and someone called from South Africa! It is understandable that there are twelve telephones and people answering them 24 hours a day. You can also see why so many volunteers are needed.

Money — the Iditarod needs money. The race cost about two million dollars each year. That doesn't include the value of the volunteers time. That is actual dollars! One way money is raised is by selling sweatshirts, t-shirts, cups, and all kinds of things that pertain to the race. Most of the people who raise money are also volunteers. They work long hours raising money, especially during the race and the State Fair in Palmer. Every morning, they put their things out for people to see, and each night pack it all away for the next day. This takes a lot of time, but it's a source of income to use toward race expenses.

There are many people in the villages who help with the race. Some of the most important, wonderful people are the people who mark the trails, and keep them open with their snow machines. This helps the mushers from getting lost. There are also those people who help with the supplies and getting things ready in the villages. They make sure there are resting places for the teams and the food drop supplies are available. They are also very gracious to the people who visit their villages. Until the 1992 race, the villagers opened their homes to the mushers. They prepared hot food for the mushers and gave them a warm place to rest. They even gave them a place to take a shower. Starting with the 1992 Iditarod, all the teams will be corralled — kept in a special area — at each checkpoint.

The "Iditarod Air Force" has always been very important. They are the volunteer pilots who use their own planes to help mushers along the trail. One very important task for the "Air Force" is to fly dogs home from along the trail. They might also fly medicine to a musher who is sick. Additionally, they fly the trail to make sure nothing is wrong.

The night before the race, when each musher draws for her/his starting position, there is a banquet. Many volunteers help that night. There is also a banquet in Nome at the end of the race. Many people help prepare for that banquet too. In fact, because all mushers may not have arrived by the time the first banquets is held, there is usually more than one banquet in Nome. The first banquet is usually held 72 hours after the first musher crosses the finish line in Nome. They have another one for mushers who arrive later.

As you can see, there are many people involved in the Iditarod! There were more than a 1000 volunteers who helped with the race in 1991! Everyone who helps, feels as if she/he has a small part in the excitement of the race. The Iditarod is not just a race, it is a part of what Alaska stands for — adventure, people working together, people and animals working together, women and men working together, all ethnic groups working together, all ages working together, and people from all over the world working together! Where else can you find an event of this magnitude? Where else can you be a part of something as great as "The Last Great Race — The Iditarod?"

APPENDICES

IDITAROD GEOGRAPHY
RACE TO NOME

IDITAROD READING
RACE TO NOME

HOW TO MAKE BOOTIES

RECIPE FOR DOG
BISCUITS

BLANK MAP OF ALASKA

STUDENT INFORMATION
PACKET ON THE
IDITAROD RACE

Iditarod Geography Race to Nome

Introduction:

The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race takes place in Alaska during the month of March. The mushers usually leave Anchorage on the first Saturday in March. Nome is their destination but there are many checkpoints on the way. Some of these checkpoints are villages, some are just a cabin, and some are merely a tent which has been set up just for the "checkers" to use while waiting for the mushers to come. There is always a lot of excitement attached to the race. In Alaska, the newspapers and TV media follow it closely and have daily reports about the race and the areas through which the race is run. It is a wonderful opportunity for students of all ages to learn a tremendous amount about the areas of Alaska through which the race is run, and the different peoples and their lifestyles, while having great fun doing it.

Each student who takes part in the Iditarod Geography Race will keep a journal. It should include a blank map of Alaska on which each geography "musher" keeps a daily record of her/his progress.

To increase interest in the race, each participant will draw the name of a real musher and try to travel faster than their real musher is going. This will be an additional incentive for the geography musher to research and record her/his findings as rapidly as possible.

Grade Level: Can be adapted for any grade level

Objectives: Students will be able to:

1. Explain the Historical background of the Iditarod.
2. Identify on a map of Alaska the various places which are checkpoints for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race to Nome.
3. Tell something about the location and place of each checkpoint
4. Explain the human/environment relationship of at least 50 percent of the villages.

Helpful materials:

Map of Alaska
Alaska magazines
Newspaper accounts of the Iditarod Race
Iditarod Trail Annual
Alaska Almanac
Materials to make a "sled"

Procedure:

1. Each geography musher will keep a journal of her/his progress. It should include:
    - a. Historical information including
        - Date of the original serum run
        - Purpose of the original serum run
        - Importance of the Alaska Railroad relative to this serum run
        - Results of the serum run
    - b. A blank map to record student's progress
    - c. Map to record progress of the Iditarod musher
    - d. For each checkpoint record the
        - Relative location
        - Something about the place
        - Population
        - Means of transportation to get to location
        - Major means of transportation in the area
        - Terrain
        - Any other interesting information
        - Pictures
    - Give source of your information

2. Have a large map of Alaska in the classroom where each student who is participating can move her/his sled along the route as research on each area is completed. The first person who arrives in Nome is declared the winner. However, since the first twenty mushers who arrive in Nome receive awards, you may wish to recognize a number of your geography mushers. You might want to give some "special" awards, such as the most unusual information, the most unique journal, best art work, most sources quoted, etc.

3. As the requirements are completed for each checkpoint, the geography musher can move her/his sled along the trail to that checkpoint on the map.

Enrichment Activities:

1. Have a musher visit the school or your classroom and tell the student about the race.

2. Adopt a musher and help her/him get ready for the race by making booties, and/or helping prepare food for the musher.

3. Write notes of encouragement to various mushers and mail them to the different checkpoints.

4. During the race, watch for unusual circumstances which may emerge and have students react to them. How would they have handled their team/themselves under those circumstances?

Iditarod Checkpoints

```
K L A A B B I T L A K E J O M D G F D M H A M O N U C I
D P I D C D Q I N A H I D J G F J F B L J I E F P N D P
M A O M F B C O C B C Q Q C L Q A A I N Y P A S S A K A
J Q F I N G E R L A K E I J J E T A K O T N A D A L C A
C B G O L O V I N P M J O L C C L O Q A P L G P F A R N
K E E L I M F Q G I H C J N F K F I L F G E R J E K I A
D A C C D K N I K K I K J O K E E G P W K I A B T L P N
I L J E F F B K F N B B C O C Q J I A A D G Y L Y E Y V
N I H G F B K N J J O M K Q I E Q C P S G J L B J E L I
M I G K Q B D M K D K A L T A G A F I I N L I D M T E K
K L A N H R U B Y M C G R A T H C H G L E F N C G K N S
B D L I A N C H O R A G E E O J B H M L H H G K A L U K
B F K O Y U K C H C L D A N O M K M I A I C B D L A L W
M N E G D G I N O M E P E I O N I K O L A I N E E N A E
C E F M O B F C Q N I O P H I R I D M A O K K J N N T N
W H I T E M O U N T A I N H C L Q D P A M J F M A G O T
G N H J J F H N J I D I T A R O D S H A K T O O L I K A
H B C D G G B O J C D P F I J G A P I C P M A O L C K E
E B A H A N F A E A G L E R I V E R D D F H N H P A Q L
L G C H I K P I F L N J S U L A T N A A Q A C L I J B C
```

ANCHORAGE
ANVIK
CRIPPLE
EAGLERIVER
ELIM
FINGERLAKE
GALENA
GOLOVIN
GRAYLING
IDITAROD
KALTAG
KNIK
KOYUK
MCGRATH
NIKOLAI
NOME
NULATO
OPHIR
RABBITLAKE
RAINYPASS
RUBY
SAFETY
SHAKTOOLIK
SKWENTA
SULATNA
TAKOTNA
UNALAKLEET
WASILLA
WHITEMOUNTAIN

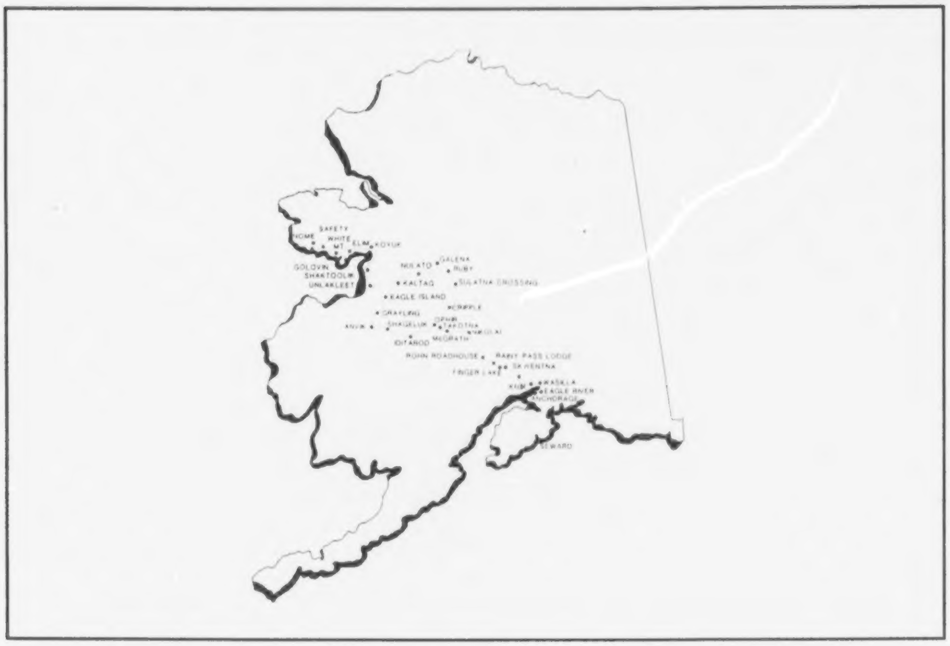
Iditarod Checkpoints

K L ~~R A B B I T L A K E~~ J O M D G F D M H A M O N U C I
D P I D C D Q I N A H I D J G F J F B L J I E F P N D P
M A O M F B C O C B C Q Q C L Q ~~R A I N Y P A S S~~ A K A
J Q ~~F I N G E R L A K E~~ I J J E ~~T A K O T N A~~ D A L C A
C B ~~G O L O V I N~~ P M J O L C C L O Q A P L G P F A R N
K E ~~E L I M~~ F Q G I H C J N F K F I L F G E R J E K I A
D A C C D ~~K N I K~~ K I K J O K E E G P W K I A B T L P N
I L J E F F B K F N B B C O C Q J I A A D G Y L Y E P V
N I H G F B K N J J O M K Q I E Q C P S G J L B J E L I
M I G K Q B D M K D ~~K A L T A G~~ A F I I N L I D M T E K
K L A N H ~~R U B Y~~ ~~M C G R A T H~~ C H G L E F N C G K N S
B D L I ~~A N C H O R A G E~~ E O J B H M L H H G K A L U K
B F ~~K O Y U K~~ C H C L D A N O M K M I A I C B D L A L W
M N E G D G I ~~N O M E~~ P E I O ~~N I K O L A I~~ N E E N A E
C E F M O B F C Q N I ~~O P H I R~~ I D M A O K K J N N T N
~~W H I T E M O U N T A I N~~ H C L Q D P A M J F M A G O T
G N H J J F H N J ~~I D I T A R O D~~ ~~S H A K T O O L I K~~ A
H B C D G G B O J C D P F I J G A P I C P M A O L C K E
E B A H A N F A ~~E A G L E R I V E R~~ D D F H N H P A Q L
L G C H I K P I F L N J ~~S U L A T N A~~ A Q A C L I J B C

ANCHORAGE
ANVIK
CRIPPLE
EAGLERIVER
ELIM
FINGERLAKE
GALENA
GOLOVIN
GRAYLING
IDITAROD

KALTAG
KNIK
KOYUK
MCGRATH
NIKOLAI
NOME
NULATO
OPHIR
RABBITLAKE
RAINYPASS

RUBY
SAFETY
SHAKTOOLIK
SKWENTA
SULATNA
TAKOTNA
UNALAKLEET
WASILLA
WHITEMOUNTAIN


SAFETY
NOME
WHITE MT
ELIM
KOYUK
GOLOVIN
SHAKTOOLIK
UNLAKLEET
NULATO
GALENA
RUBY
KALTAG
SULATNA CROSSING
EAGLE ISLAND
CRIPPLE
GRAYLING
OPHIR
ANVIK
SHAGELUK
TAKOTNA
NIKOLAI
IDITAROD
McGRATH
ROHN ROADHOUSE
RAINY PASS LODGE
SKWENTNA
FINGER LAKE
KNIK
WASILLA
EAGLE RIVER
ANCHORAGE
SEWARD

Iditarod Reading Race to Nome

Goal:

Read 1049 pages on appropriate reading level during the month of March, The Month of the Iditarod.

Objectives:

1. To encourage more recreational reading.
2. To encourage an active interest in the history and geography of Alaska.
3. To encourage reading of the newspapers and active watching of TV to learn about Alaska.
4 To encourage the completion of any commitment made.

Materials Needed:

1. Large wall map of Alaska with the current Iditarod Trail clearly marked on it
2. Legend telling distance between checkpoints
3. Pins
4. Sleds or dogs made of felt or construction paper
5. LOTS of books
6. 5X8 cards

Procedure:

1. Explain to the students that they may have their own Iditarod Race to Nome. Their race will be a reading race. They will try to read faster than their real musher is traveling. Each page in a book will be equal to one "musher" mile. Explain that the books need to be on their reading level (You may use your own judgement here as to level). Have them show you or someone else their books and get your O.K. just like all the dogs must be checked by veterinarians before they can run in the race.

2. Students sign up to "race" to Nome.

3. The day after the Iditarod Mushers draw for positions, have the students draw for their musher. Each student will have a counterpart real musher. The students will be following their special musher and reading trying to beat their musher to Nome by reading faster than the musher is traveling.

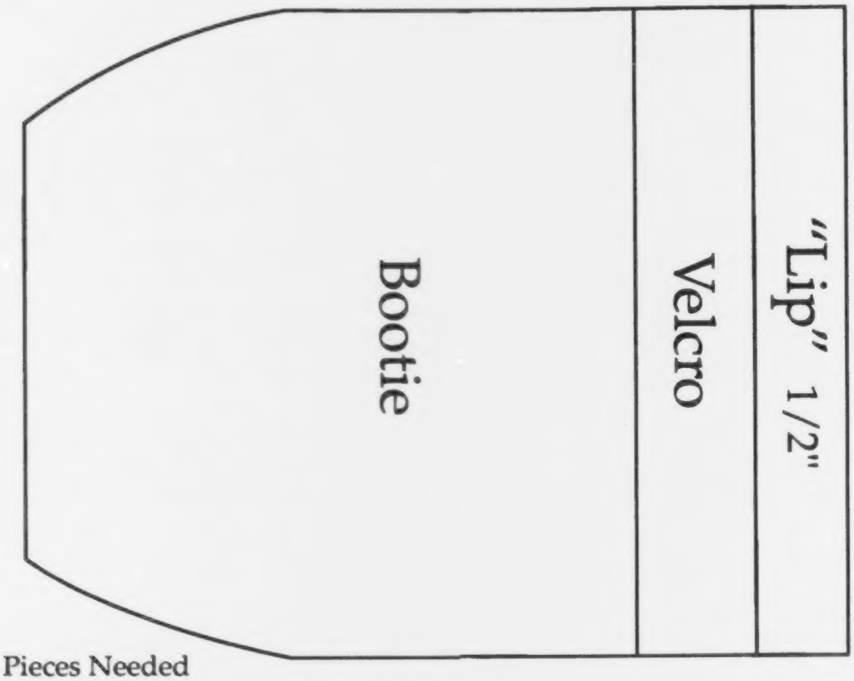
4. Students will select their books or pages to total 1,049 - prior to the vet chec (when the dogs must be checked by the vets to make sure they are healthy and well enough to start the race). The teacher or helper can then glance quickly at the books to decide if they are "healthy" (grade level) for the reading race. These books will then be listed by the "reading musher" on the student's card and held until the Friday afternoon preceding the beginning of the Iditarod Race on Saturday. They may then pick up their books that Friday before they leave school.

5. As the students read to a checkpoint, they bring the book in and are "checked" (asked a question or two about the book), move their sled, and continue reading.

6. Prizes may be given for first readers into Nome and any other special recognition that you might be able to generate.

All students who sign up should be reminded that it is a commitment - a tough commitment - and if they sign up, they are expected to finish unless illness or school work requires them to "scratch".

Making Booties



I. Pieces Needed
    A. Bootie - size of pattern
    B. Velcro - 1 1/2 inches of Hook side, 2 inches of loop side
    C. Elastic - 3 inches

II. Sewing
    A. Cut out Bootie
        1. Use polar fleece or trigger cloth
        2. Sew smooth seams
        3. Make relatively tight stitches - stitch twice
        4 **NO HOLES!** THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!
        5. Trim seams and threads
        6. Turn right side out
        7. "Quality Control" - Check very carefully for holes

    B. Velcro & Elastic
        1. When placing velcro on bootie, leave 1/2 " "lip" above velcro
        2. Sew one piece velcro to elastic
        3. Attach loop,"gripper", piece of velcro to one side ofbootie
        4. Attach other piece of velcro & elastic to other side of bootie
            a. May glue velcro to material first
            b. Then sew
            c. Insert 3 fingers, fasten velcro. Bootie should fit snugly.

NOTE: DO NOT sew anything into seams!!!!

Dog Biscuit Recipe

Here is a recipe for dog biscuits. You may wish to make some for a mushers's dogs, or you might want to make some for your very own dog.

Rover's Rewards

3/4 Cup hot water or meat juices
1/3 cup margarine
1/2 cup powdered milk
1/2 teaspoon salt (optional)
1 egg, beaten
3 cups whole wheat flour

1. In large bowl pour hot water over margarine.
2. Stir in powdered milk, salt, and beaten egg.
3. Add flour, 1/2 cup at a time, mixing well after each addition.
4. Knead 3 to 4 minutes, adding more flour if necessary to make a very stiff dough.
5. Pat or roll to 1/2 inch thickness and cut out with CHEF FIDO Dog Biscuit Cutter.
6. Place on a greased baking sheet and bake at 325° for 50 minutes.
7. Allow to cool and dry out until hard.
8. Makes approximately 1 1/4 pounds.

Courtesy of
CHEF FIDO PRODUCTS
P.O. Box 260994
Lakewood, Colorado 80226

APPENDIX V

Bibliography

Non-Fiction

Activities Packet for Alaskan Mushing and the Iditarod Race. Indian Education Act Program. Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.

Alaska Almanac. Alaska Northwest Books. Anchorage. Updated each year.

Alaskan Mushing and the Iditarod Race. Indian Education Act Program. Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.

Attla, George. The Iditarod: the Most Demanding Race of All. Arner Publications. 1974.

Barve, Lavon. Mushing North. L Barve. Wasilla. 1984.

Casey, Brigid. Sled Dogs. Dodd, Mead. New York. 1983.

Cellura, Dominique. Travelers of the Cold: Sled Dogs of the Far North. Alaska Northwest Books. Anchorage. 1990.

Cooper, Michael. Racing Sled Dogs. Clarion Books. New York. 1988.

Harris, Bill. Iditarod: the 1000 Mile Marathon. Cresent Books. 1985.

Iditarod Runner. Iditarod Trail Committee. Wasilla. Published Quarterly.

Jones, Tim. The Last Great Race: The Iditarod. Stackpole Books. 1988.

Nielsen,Nicki J.. The Iditarod: Women on the Trail. Wolfdog Publications. Anchorage. 1986.

O'Harra, Doug. Iditarod 1985: 13th Annual Anchorage-to-Nome Trail Sled Dog Race. News Books International. 1985.

Page, Dorothy and Others. Iditarod Trail Annuals. . 1974-1991.

Riddles, Libby. Race Across Alaska: First Woman to Win the Iditarod Tells Her Story. Stackpole Books. 1988.

Schultz, Jeff. Iditarod: the Great Race to Nome. Alaska Northwest Books. Anchorage. 1991.

Standiford, Natalie. The Bravest Dog Ever - The True Story of Balto. Random House. New York. 1989. (Grades 1-3)

Ungermann, Kenneth A.. The Race to Nome. Harper and Row. New York.. 1963. (History of the 1925 diphtheria rush to Nome)

Fiction

Chandler, Edna. Taka and His Dog. Benefic Press. Chicago. 1962

Gill, Shelley. Kiana's Iditarod. Paws IV. 1984.

Gradiner, John Reynolds. Stone Fox. Harper & Row. New York. 1980.

Henry, Sue. Murder on the Iditarod. Atlantic Monthly Press. 1991.

Machetanz, Fred. Panuck, Eskimo Sled Dog. Charles Scribner's Son. 1967.

Morey, Walt Kavik the Wolf Dog. Dutton. New York. 1966.

Morey, Walt.Scrub Dog of Alaska. Dutton. New York. 1971.

O'Dell, Scott. Black Star, Bright Dawn. Houghton Mifflin. Boston. 1988.

Paulsen, Gary. Dogsong. Puffin Books, New York. 1987.

Other Media

Alaska's Great Race: the Susan Butcher Story. Videorecording (57 min.). Pal Productions, Inc.. 1989.

Iditarod 85, The Last Great Race. Videorecording (30 min.). E.C. Film & Video. 1985.

Iditarod 1987. Videorecording (50 min.). KTUU. 1987.

Iditarod Trail Song: The Yodelin' Logger. Sound Recording (All words and music by Hobo Jim. Alaskan Recording Co..Anchorage. 1982.

Iditarod: Trail to Gold. Videorecording (75 min.). Alaska Video Pub., Inc. 1988.

Last Great Race on Earth. Videorecording (53 min). Films Inc. 1982.

Student Information Packet on the Iditarod Race
by the Iditarod Trail Committee of Wasilla

Introduction

The Iditarod

The Last Great Race on Earth

You can't compare it to any other competitive event in the world! A race over 1049 miles of the roughest, most beautiful terrain mother nature has to offer. She throws jagged mountain ranges, frozen rivers, dense forests, desolate tundra and miles of windswept coast at the mushers and their dog teams. Add to that the temperatures far below zero, winds that can cause a complete loss of visibility, the hazards of overflow, long hours of darkness and treacherous climbs and side hills, and you have the IDITAROD, A RACE EXTRAORDINAIRE, a race only possible in Alaska.

From Anchorage, in southcentral Alaska, to Nome on the western Bering Sea coast, each team of 12 to 18 dogs and their musher cover over 1049 miles in two to three weeks.

It has been called the *Last Great Race on Earth* and it has won worldwide acclaim and interest. German, Spanish, British, Japanese and American film crews have covered the event. Journalists from outdoor magazines, adventure magazines, newspapers and wire services flock to Anchorage and Nome to record the excitement. It's not just a dog sled race... it's a race in which unique men and women compete. Mushers enter from all walks of life. Fishermen, lawyers, doctors, miners, artists, natives, Canadians, Swiss, French and others; men and women each with their own story, each with their own reasons for going the distance. It's a race organized and run primarily by volunteers... thousands of volunteers... men and women, students and village residents. They man headquarters at Anchorage, Eagle River, Fairbanks, Juneau, Nome and Wasilla. They fly in dog food and supplies. They act as checkers, coordinators, veterinarians and family supporters for each musher.

Iditarod - *The Last Great Race on Earth - The Spirit of Alaska!*

More than a Race... A Commemoration

The race pits racer and animal against nature, against wild Alaska at its best and as each mile is covered, a tribute to Alaska's past is issued. The Iditarod is a tie to — a commemoration of — that colorful past.

The Iditarod Trail, now a national historic trail, had its beginnings as a mail and supply route from the coastal towns of Seward and Knik to the interior mining camps at Flat, Ophir, Ruby and beyond to the west coast communities of Unalakleet, Elim, Golovin, White Mountain and Nome. Mail and supplies went in. Gold came out. All via dog sled. Heroes were made, legends were born.

In 1925, part of the Iditarod Trail became a life saving highway for epidemicstricken Nome. Diphtheria threatened and the serum had to be brought in; again by intrepid dog mushers and their faithful hard-driving huskies.

The Iditarod today is a commemoration of those yesterdays, a not-so-distant past Alaskans honor and are proud of.

An Event for All Alaska

Anchorage is the starting line — a city of over 200,000 people, street lights, freeways and traffic. From there the field of dog teams which grow in number each year, runs to Eagle River to Checkpoint #1. After a restart in the Matunuska Valley at Settler's Bay, the mushers leave the land of highways and bustling activity and head across the Susitna River to Rabbi Lake and Skwentna and then up! Through Finger Lake, Rainy Pass, over the Alaska Range and down the other side to the Kuskokwim River — Rohn Roadhouse, Nikolai, McGrath, Ophir, Cripple, Iditarod and on the the mighty Yukon — a river highway that takes the teams west through the arctic tundra.

The race route is alternated every other year, one year going north through Cripple, Ruby and Galena, the next year south through Iditarod, Shageluk, Anvik.

Finally, they're on the coast — Unalakleet, Koyuk, Elim, Golovin, White Mountain and into Nome where a hero's welcome is the custom for musher number 1 or 61.

The route encompasses large metropolitan areas and small native villages. It causes a yearly spurt of activity, increased airplane traffic and excitement to areas otherwise quiet and dormant during the long Alaskan winter. Everyone gets involved from very young school children to the old timers who relive the colorful Alaskan past they've known as they watch each musher and his team. The race is an educational opportunity, an economic stimulus to these small Alaskan outposts.

It's Beginning

The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race first ran to Nome in 1973, after two short races on part of the Iditarod Trail in 1967 and 1969. The idea of having a race over the Iditarod Trail was conceived by the late Dorothy G. Page. In 1964, Page was chairman of the Wasilla-Knik Centennial Committee and was working on projects to celebrate Alaska's Centennial Year in 1967.

She was intrigued that dog teams could travel over land that was not accessible by automobile. In the early 1920's, settlers had come to Alaska following a gold strike. They traveled by boat to the coastal towns of Seward and Knik and from there, by land into the gold fields. The trail they used is today known as the Iditarod Trail, one the the national historic trails, so designated by Congress of the United States. In the winter, their only means of travel was by dog team.

The Iditarod Trail soon became the major "thoroughfare" through Alaska. Mail was carried across this trail. People traveled this trail in getting from one place to another, and supplies were transported via the Iditarod Trail.

But soon the gold mining slacked off, people began to go back to where they had come from, and suddenly there was less travel on the Iditarod Trail. The use of the airplane in the late 1920's signaled the beginning of the end for the dog team as a standard mode of transportation, and of course with the airplane carrying the mail, there was less need for land travel. The final blow to the use of the dog team came with appearance of snowmobiles in Alaska.

By the mid 60's, most people in Alaska didn't even know there was an Iditarod Trail or that dog teams had played a very important part in Alaska's early settlement. Dorothy Page, a resident of Wasilla and self-made historian, recognized the importance of an awareness of the use of sled dogs as working animals and of the Iditarod Trail and the important part it played in Alaska's colorful history.

She presented the possibility of a race over the Iditarod Trail to an enthusiastic Joe Redington Sr., a musher from the Knik area. Soon the Pages and the Redingtons began promoting the idea of the Iditarod Race to the extent that Joe and Vi Redington moved to the Knik area from their homestead at Flat Horn Lake and they have never moved back.

The Aurora Dog Mushers Club, along with men from the Adult Camp in Sutton helped clears years of overgrowth from the first nine miles of the Iditarod Trail in time to put on the first short Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in 1967. A $25,000 purse was offered in that race, with Joe and Vi Redington donating one acre of their land at Flat Horn Lake adjacent to the Iditarod Trail to help raise the funds. (The land was subdivided into one square foot lots and sold with a deed and special certificate of ownership, raising $10,000 toward the purse. Contestants from all over Alaska and even two contestants from Massachusetts entered that first Iditarod Race, but a new comer, Isaac Okleasik, from Teller, Alaska, won the race with his team of large working dogs. The short race (approximately 60 miles) was put on again in 1969.

The goal was to have the race go all the way to the ghost town of Iditarod in 1973. However, in 1972, the U.S. Army reopened the trail as a winter exercise and in 1973, the decision was made to take the race the 1,000 plus miles to Nome. Redington and Page were instrumental in getting that first long Iditarod on its way to Nome in 1973, amidst comments that it couldn't be done. There were many who believed it was crazy to send a bunch of mushers out into the vast uninhabited Alaskan wilderness. But the race went! Twenty-two mushers finished that year and to date, there have been just over 350 finishers. Mushers have come from Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Great Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Norway, Italy, Japan, Austria and Australia as well as from about 20 different sates in this country.

The late Dorothy G. Page, the "Mother of the Iditarod" is quoted in the October 1979 issue of the Iditarod Runner on her intent for the Iditarod:

> *"To keep the spirit of the Iditarod the same. I don't ever want to see any high pressure people getting in and changing the spirit of the race. We brought the sled dog back and increase the number of mushers. It is really an Alaskan event. I think the fact that it starts in Anchorage and then ends in Nome has opened up a whole new area for people in Alaska. I think they appreciate that. It puts them in touch with the pioneer spirit."*

Iditarod Today

The race has started in downtown Anchorage since 1983. The 20th Annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race begins on Saturday, February 29, 1992 at 9 a.m. The teams leave the start line at the corner of 4th and "D" in two minute intervals. Nearly 80 teams are expected.

The mushers follow bike trails through Anchorage and out to Tudor Road. They mush along the Glenn Highway into the VFW post in Eagle River. From there the dogs are loaded into the dog trucks and taken to the re-start in Wasilla, at the airport, behind the D&A shopping center.

Mushers may leave the re-start area four hours after their arrival into Eagle River. The first musher into Eagle River will arrive around 11:30 and so the first musher out of the re-start will be about 3:30 in the afternoon. It takes three or four hours to get all the mushers on their way from the re-start.

They then travel to Knik Lake, the last checkpoint on the road system. Spectators may drive the 15 miles from Anchorage to Eagle River and the approximately 30 miles from Eagle River to Wasilla. It's about 13 miles from Wasilla to Knik. Once the mushers leave the Knik checkpoint, they are off the road system for the duration of the race.

It is impossible to predict the exact day or time that the first musher will cross the finish line in Nome. However, we expect it to be between 11 and 13 days, making it on Wednesday or Thursday. Four time champion, Susan Butcher, completed the 1990 race in record, 11 days, 1 hour, 53 minutes and 23 seconds.

Behind the Scenes

It takes so much more than a field of willing mushers and anxious sled dogs to run the Iditarod Trail Race. With the annual budget of two million dollars, the Iditarod Trail Committee depends on a hard working force of volunteers and supporters to raise the necessary money all year around. An annual sweepstakes is held. This volunteer force and the loyal supporters from both the private and business sector make the race possible each year.

Information headquarters are set up in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Nome and Wasilla during the race to disseminate information and race standings to the public. Volunteers staff each of the 20+ checkpoints. HAM radio operators, some of whom spend their vacations on the trail, set up a complex communications net that covers the course offering logistical support, emergency communications and an information source for race officials. The "Iditarod Air Force" is a fleet of small privately owned bush planes flown by volunteers, shuttling dog food and mushers' supplies to each checkpoint, moving veterinarians and race officials up and down the trial, hauling tired dropped dogs back to the major pickup points. A group of veterinarians from all over the United States, and sometimes even from Europe, take time out from their busy practices to assist with dog care duties along the trail. Trial breakers on snow machines precede the field of mushers, cutting trail, marking trail, packing trail in windswept areas, trying to give each team a safe path to follow.

Without these volunteers, there wouldn't be a race. Their efforts save the committee thousands of dollars which would be impossible to raise. Their dedication and involvement is what this truly Alaskan event is all about.

On the Trail

Every musher has a different tactic. Each one has a special menu for feeding and snacking the dogs. Each one has a different strategy — some run in the daylight, some run at night. Each one has a different training schedule and his own ideas on dog care, dog stamina and his own personal ability.

The rules of the race lay out certain regulations which each musher must abide by. There are certain pieces of equipment each must have *i.e.* an arctic parka, a heavy sleeping bag, an axe, snowshoes, musher food, dog food and boots for each dog's feet to protect against cutting ice and hard packed snow injuries.

Some mushers spend an entire year getting ready and raising the money needed to get to Nome. Some prepare around a full-time job. In addition to planing the equipment and feeding needs for three weeks on the trail, hundreds of hours and hundreds of miles of training have to be put on each team.

There are names which are automatically associated with the race. Joe Redington, Sr., prime founder of the classic and affectionately known as "Father of the Iditarod". Rick Swenson from Manley who is the only 5-time winner, the only musher to have entered 16 Iditarod races and never finished out of the top ten. Dick Mackey from Cold Foot who beat Swenson by one second in 1978 to achieve the impossible photo finish after two weeks on the trail. Norman Vaughan who at the age of 84 has finished the race four times and plans to go again when he's 85; Four-time Iditarod winner, Susan Butcher, was the first woman to ever place in the top 10. And of course, Libby Riddles, the first woman to win the Iditarod in 1985. There are others — Herbie Nayokpuk, Shishmaref; Emmitt Peters, Ruby, 1975 champion; the flying Anderson's, Babe and Eep, from McGrath; Rick Mackey, who wearing his father Dick's winning #13, crossed the finish line first in 1983, making them the only father and son to have both won an Iditarod; Joe Runyan, 1989 champion and the only musher to have won the Alpirod (European long distance race), the Yukon Quest (long distance race between Fairbanks and Whitehorse, YT) and the Iditarod; Terry Adkins, retired from the United States Air Force, the only veterinarian on the first Iditarod and now one of two mushers to have competed in all but two Iditarod races (the other is Joe Redington Sr.). The list goes on, each name bringing with it a tale of adventure, a feeling of accomplishment, a touch of hero. Each musher, whether in the top ten, or winner of the Red Lantern (last place) has accomplished a feat few dare attempt. Each has gone the distance, won the race, established a place for the team in the annals of Iditarod lore.

Example of Special Awards for 1991

Spirit of Iditarod Award

Presented to the person who has demonstrated the ideals of the Iditarod and whose life and guiding philosophy preserve that spirit for future generations. In the best tradition of the original 1925 run, the ideals of the race are courage, perseverance, compassion, and a respect for the wilderness and man's delicate balance within that. Anyone connected with the race — from a musher to a volunteer — is eligible to win. Norman D. Vaughan was the first winner in 1989. The second winner was the late Dorothy G. Page, "Mother of the Iditarod," who died in November, 1989. The third winner will be announced at the drawing banquet prior to the start of the 1991 race.

Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award

Alaska Airlines presents a crystal trophy to the musher who, in the eyes of the veterinary staff, demonstrates the best care of his dog team under competitive racing conditions.

Quality Performance Award

Budweiser awards the Quality Performance Award to the winner and the top placing rookie. These trophies are presented at the awards banquet in Nome.

Dodge Dash Award

Iditarod's newest sponsor, Dodge Trucks, will award a 1991 Dodge Dakota to the first musher into the Skwentna checkpoint.

Alascom Halfway Trophy

Alascom honors the first musher into the "halfway" point (alternating each year between the Iditarod and Cripple checkpoints) with a silver trophy and $3,000 in silver ingots. This is presented to the musher upon his arrival into the checkpoint, and again at the awards banquet in Nome.

Yukon Clarion Hotel Award

The Clarion Hotel Anchorage honors the first musher to reach the Yukon River (alternating between Anvik and Ruby) with a seven course gourmet meal. Served on china and crystal with wines for each course, it is prepared and served by the Executive Chef, General Manager and Rooms Division Manager from the Clarion Hotel. Additionally, the musher will be presented with a $2,500 cash prize and trophy after the dessert course. This award will be presented again at the Nome banquet.

Rookie of the Year

Jerry and Clara will present $1,500 to the first rookie into Nome. The award will be presented at the banquet in Nome.

Safety to Nome

This award is presented by the Nome Kennel Club for the fastest time from Safety to Nome. The $500 prize will be presented at the banquet in Nome.

IAMS' Sportsmanship Award

Iams will present one ton of Iams Eukanuba Dog food and a trophy to the musher who exhibits the best sportsmanship along the trail. This award will be presented at the banquet in Nome.

Golden Harness Award

A golden harness, crafted by Lolly Medley, will be presented to the outstanding lead dog of the 1991 Iditarod. This award will be presented at the banquet in Nome.

Red Lantern Award

The Red Lantern Trophy goes to the last musher to cross the finish line. This is presented at the last banquet by the National Bank of Alaska.

Alaskan Musher's Dictionary

Lead Dog or Leader
Dog who runs in front of others. Generally must be both intelligent and fast.

Double Lead
Two dogs who lead the team side by side.

Swing Dog or Dogs
Dog that runs directly behind the leader. Further identified as right or left swing depending on which side of the tow line he is positioned on. His job is to help "swing" the team in the turns or curves.

Wheel Dogs or Wheelers
Dogs placed directly in front of the sled. Their job is to pull the sled out and around corners or trees.

Team Dog
Any dog other than those described above.

Mush! Hike! All Right! Let's Go
Commands to start the team.

"Gee"
Command for right turn.

"Haw"
Command for left turn.

Come Gee! Come Haw!
Commands for 180 degree turns in either direction.

Whoa!
Command used to halt the team, accompanied by heavy pressure on the brake.

Line Out!
Command to lead dog to pull the team out straight from the sled. Used mostly while hooking dogs into team or unhooking them.

Tow Line, Gang Line
Main rope that runs forward from sled. Generally made of polyethylene or nylon. All dogs are connected to the tow line by other lines.

Neck Line
Line that connects dog's collar to tow line and between the two collars of a double lead.

Snub Line
Rope attached to the sled which is used to tie the sled to a tree or other object.

Tether Line
A long chain with shorter pieces of chain extending from it. Used to stake out a team when stakes aren't available.

Tug Line
Line that connects dog's harness to the tow line.

Toggles
Small pieces of ivory or wood used by Eskimos to fasten tug lines to harnesses.

Trail!
Request for right-of-way on the trail.

Stake

Metal or wooden post driven into the ground to which dog is tied.

Snow Hook or Ice Hook

Heavy piece of metal attached to sled by line. The snow hook is embedded in the snow in order to hold the team and sled for a short period of time.

Stove Up

Injured, generally temporarily. Applies to both musher and dogs.

Dog in Basket

Tired or injured dog carried in the sled.

Rigging

Collection of lines to which dogs are attached. Includes tow line, tug lines and neck lines.

Runners

The two bottom pieces of the sled which come in contact with the snow. They extend back of the basket for the driver to stand on. Runner bottoms are usually wood, covered with plastic or Teflon. This plastic or Teflon is usually replaced at least once during the race.

Booties

A sort of sock that is made to protect the dog's feet from small cuts and sores. These are made out of various materials, i.e., denim, polar fleece, trigger clothe, etc.

Slats

Thin strips of wood which make up the bottom of a wooden sled basket. Note: Toboggan sleds have a sheet of plastic as the bottom for their basket.

Husky

Any northern type dog.

Malamute

Term often used by old timers for any sled dog. Larger husky.

Pedaling

Pushing the sled with one foot while the other remains on the runner.

Indian Dog

An Alaskan Husky from an Indian village.

Siberian Husky

Medium sized (average 50 pounds) northern breed of dog, recognized by the American Kennel Club. Siberians usually have blue eyes.

Shovel

Implement used (mainly by musher's spouse) to clean dog lot.

"Strawing"

Taking out old straw, cleaning dog house and putting new straw in. (Work usually done by musher's spouse).

Perhaps it's best to skip some of the language used by drivers when their leader is distracted and leads the team off the trail, or the team becomes tangled for some reason. Let's just say that in addition to the above voice commands, various other colorful expressions are used.

NOTE: It should be thoroughly understood that as dogs ar not driven with reins, but by spoken orders, the leader of the team must understand all that is said to him and guide the others accordingly. An intelligent leader is therefore an absolute necessity. At times it appears that there is E.S.P. between musher and lead dog. Don't be surprised if you hear a musher have an in-depth conversation with his lead dog.

1991 Checkpoints

(Pronunciation, Population and Facts of Interest)

Anchorage

Population 190,090. Makes it Alaska's largest city with a full range of transportation and hotel accommodations. The race starts downtown on Fourth Avenue. Interesting side trips during March include Portage Glacier or downhill skiing at Mt. Alyeska, both less than an hour's drive south, or head north to Hatcher Pass for cross country skiing and to explore the remains of Independence Mine.

Eagle River

Population 24,852. Here the mushers unharness their team and truck them to the next checkpoint for the Restart. The reason... the traditional lack of snow on the "Flats" toward Palmer and open water on the Knik River.

Wasilla

Population 4,028. Home of the "Restart." From here the mushers begin traveling the historic Iditarod Trail. A good place to photograph and interview mushers as they can't leave until four hours after they check into Eagle River.

Knik (Kuh-NIK)

Population 272. Home of Joe Redington, Sr., the "Father of the Iditarod," and the Knik Museum with the Mushers' Hall of Fame, a must for the first-time press people covering the race. From here the mushers leave civilization and roads behind and begin their adventure into remote Alaska.

Skwentna

Population 114. Located near the confluence of the Skwentna and Yentna Rivers. The checkpoint is located at Joe and Norma Delia's log house, also known as the Post Office. There is a store and limited lodging nearby.

Finger Lake

Population 2. In the heart of the snow country, here it is not uncommon to have 10 feet of snow on the ground. The checkpoint is a tent camp across from the cabin where Gene and June Leonard lived until they left the state this summer. Barry and Kirsten Stanley, long time Iditarod supporters and volunteers are now living in the cabin at Finger Lake.

Rainy Pass

Population 2. This area represents the highest point on the Iditarod Trail as it passes over the majestic Alaska Range. Located on Puntilla Lake it is the guiding operation of Vern Humble. Known as Rainy Pass Lodge, it is closed down at this time of year. They allow us to use one of their cabins for a checkpoint and another for mushers to rest in. One of the tow spots along the trail for spectacular scenery.

Rohn Roadhouse

This area is tied with Rainy Pass as having the most spectacular scenery. The gateway to the interior, Rohn Roadhouse marks the transition point where the mushers start to venture into the flatlands of the interior, along with dropping temperatures. Situated near the confluence of the South Fork of the Kuskokwim and Tatina Rivers, the area served as one of the original Iditarod Trail Roadhouses for the dog teams carrying mail, etc. The actual roadhouse is gone, so we use a cabin built in the 1930's for our checkpoint. Note: Most press mistakenly refer to this as Rohn River checkpoint, but there is no Rohn River. It's Rohn Roadhouse. Most mushers take their mandatory 24-hour layover here, before heading across the bleak but treacherous Farewell Burn area. **No facilities or lodging are available at Rohn.**

Nikolai (NIK-o-lye)

Population 109. This is the first of many native villages along the Iditarod Trail. There is a village store at the far end of town across the airstrip, and limited lodging is available through advance booking. The checkpoint is located in the Community Hall.

McGrath

Population 528. Located near the confluence of the Kuskokwim and Takotna Rivers, this thriving community has two stores, a bar and a restaurant. It's the last chance to buy aviation gas until you reach the coast at Unalakleet. As mentioned earlier, all the native villages along the trail are dry, and it's illegal to bring alcohol into the community even for personal consumption. Limited lodging is also available with advance booking.

Takotna

Population 38. Situated on the banks of the Takotna River, this town has a store, restaurant and a bar. This is one of the smallest towns with one of the biggest welcomes.

Ophir (OH-fur)

Now a ghost town, it took its name in 1980 from a nearby placer creek, one of a dozen streams in Alaska to be named by Bible-reading prospectors, for the lost country of Ophir, the source of King Solomon's gold. Many items and artifacts still remain untouched. The checkpoint is at Dick and Audra Forsgren's cabin.

Iditarod

This ghost town, once a bustling community of over 10,000, was the heart of the Iditarod mining district, from whence the trail got its name. Dog teams hauled supplies and mail into this area and were then laden with gold for their return trip out. Between 1908 and 1925, about $35,000,000 in gold was taken from this area. Not bad since gold was worth around $20 an ounce in those days. Iditarod marks the official half-way point in the race, signified by Alascom's presentation of the half-way award.

Shageluk (SHAG-a-look)

Population 139. The name is an Ingalik Indian name meaning "village of the dog people," and when the Iditarod hits town, that is especially true. Adolph Hamilton, who lives here, helped race organizers find the original trail to the town of Iditarod, even though he had only been over it once, many years before with his father, as a small boy. The checkpoint is in the community hall.

Anvik

Population 82. The first checkpoint on the famous Yukon River, the longest river in Alaska, stretching 1,875 miles from its headwaters in the Yukon Territory of Canada to the Bering Sea. The church bell signals the arrival of the first musher into this picturesque village. Two stores can be found here. The checkpoint is in the lodge. Limited accommodations are available.

Grayling

Population 208. This will be the last village checkpoint the mushers see until they reach Kaltag, 130 miles further up the trail. There is a village store here. The checkpoint is in the old community center.

Eagle Island

At this checkpoint, the musher finds his constant battle with cold winds on the Yukon River about half over, but it's still a long 65 miles to the next checkpoint. Ralph Conaster's cabin, the only dwelling in Eagle Island, is the checkpoint.

Kaltag

Population 240. This town signals a brief respite from the driving winds as the trail from here leads overland through Kaltag Portage to the coast of Norton Sound where the winds take on new meaning. Kaltag is the home of Virginia Kalland, widow of Edgar Kalland who was one of the original mushers who helped carry life saving diphtheria serum along this trail 60 years ago. She also owns one of Kaltag's three stores. Note: The location for mushers check-in is at Rich Burnham's house, but the official checkpoint and gathering spot is the community hall about a block away. Please don't treat the Burnham home as a checkpoint.

Unalakleet (YOU-na-la-kleet)

Population 714. Situated on the coast of Norton Sound, just north of the Unalakleet River, this village is the largest community on the Iditarod Trail between Eagle River and Nome. Two well stocked stores as well as two restaurants can be found here along with limited lodging by advance booking. The trail is now entering the gateway to the Bering Sea and from here on the mushers can expect sudden storms and an ample supply of wind. The checkpoint is in front of the A.C. store.

Shaktoolik (shak-TOO-lick)

Population 178. One look down the street at the snowdrifts will tell you this is one of the windiest stretches of the trail. The store is across from the school. From here the trail continues overland for a short distance, then leads the mushers out onto the ice of Norton Bay, one of the most treacherous segments of trail that the musher may have to contend with. The checkpoint is at the armory.

Koyuk

Population 231. Once this checkpoint is reached, the mushers can breathe a sigh of relief as almost all of the rest of the trail is at least over land. The checkpoint is the city Hall.

Elim (EE-lum)

Population 264. The checkpoint (at least at the time this went to press) is at the home of Lincoln Moore (check at the store for directions). From here the trail heads over the hills of the Kwiktalik Mountains inland a little ways to the next checkpoint on Golovin Bay. The checkpoint is at the home of the checker. Ask at the village store.

Golovin (GULL-uh-vin)

Population 127. The checkpoint is located at the Teen Center. Golovin has one store. From here the trail heads across Golovin Bay, then overland to the next checkpoint.

White Mountain

Population 180. Just 77 miles from Nome, this village is located on the banks of the Fish River. It takes its name from that of a picturesque nearby mountain. Checkpoint is located in the community hall building up the hill from the store. Accommodations are available at White Mountain Lodge.

Safety

The last checkpoint before Nome, just 22 miles away. Here the mushers are on the coast of the Bering Sea and travel on the beach most of the way to Nome.

Nome

Population 3500. The end of the Iditarod Trail! Prospectors established this Seward Peninsula city as Anvil Creek in 1889. A year later gold was discovered in beach sand, and it became a boom town, home of 30,000 gold seekers. The city was renamed Nome in 1899 after a nearby point on Norton Sound, which got its name in 1853 when a British Navy cartographer misinterpreted a chart notation and recorded it as Nome. The gold rush atmosphere still abounds, especially when "Iditarod Fever" hits town with the entire community turning out to welcome the mushers and visitors alike to their community. Numerous stores, restaurants and bars line infamous "Front Street," but lodging is at a premium. If the Nugget Inn and Polaris Hotel are full, check with the Nome Convention and Visitors Bureau for the availability of "bed and breakfast" accommodations.

Biographical Information on Women Mushers in 1990

Susan Butcher Manley, Alaska

Four time Iditarod winner Susan Butcher is back for Iditarod 19. Her 1st place finishes include 1986, 87, 88 and 90. The 34 year-old came to Alaska in 1975 from Colorado to work on a musk ox farm. During the first two years she accumulated a 15 dog kennel and started training. In 1977 she met Joe Redington Sr. and trained with him for her first Iditarod in 1978. Since then she has also competed in and won many other races such as the Norton Sound 200, the Kusko 300, the John Beargrease Race in Minnesota and the Arctic Coast 200.

Susan lives north of Fairbanks with her husband, David Monson, the 1988 winner of the Yukon Quest. Together they operate "Trail Breaker Kennels." Susan says, "I pride myself in taking the best care and spending the most time with my dogs of all long distance racers. My lead dog training and love of my animals are the reasons for my success. I have fantastic dogs to work with." If she wins Iditarod 19 she will be the only musher to have won the race 5 times.

Pat Danly Trapper Creek, Alaska

Entering her fourth Iditarod in five years, Pat Danly is not in the Iditarod for the money. Rather, she enjoys "the personal challenge" of the race and racing the dogs. The 40-year-old State Highway Technician and amateur radio operator entered her first Iditarod in 1986 where she finished in 50th place. Danly, who finished an improved 39th in 1987 and an even better 31st in 1989, moved to Alaska in 1975 from Chicago, Illinois.

DeeDee Jonrowe Willow, Alaska

Iditarod 19 will be Dee Dee's 9th race. Born in Germany in 1953 while her father was in the service, she arrived in Alaska in 1971. She graduated from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks with a BS in Biological Science and currently works as a fleet assistant for Trident Seafoods. She became interested in mushing in 1978 while living in Bethel. Her mother has been a race volunteer for many years. Dee Dee's best Iditarod finish was 4th place in 1989. She has also competed and done well in the John Beargrease (with a 1st place finish in 1989) and the Kuskokwim 300.

"The majority of my dogs have been raised by myself from two prominent bloodlines, Butcher and Firman. Iditarod has offered a wonderful opportunity to travel through Alaska annually and compete with my favorite animals. I enjoy the villages and all the people that make the race happen on the trail. I appreciate a chance to enjoy God's creation and depend on his guidance."

Peryll Kyzer Willow, Alaska

A native Alaskan, Peryll, 37, is a rookie in the 1991 Iditarod. During the past ten years she has been employed as a farmer and is a member of the Alaska Dairy Goat Association.

Beverly Masek   Rustic Wilderness, Alaska

Twenty seven year old Beverly Jerure Masek was born and raised in Anvik, Alaska. She spent much of her youth working with dogs, and mushing has been her main interest most of her life. Beverly felt the early influence of her mother, Marsha Jerue, who was well known locally in Anvik as an avid and successful musher. 1990 was Beverly's rookie and she finished in 35th place.

Beverly was married to Jan Masek in a ceremony along the trail in the 1984 Iditarod Race. They have a four year old son named Michael who also enjoys mushing even at his young age. They own and operate their dog kennel in Rustic Wilderness, along the Big Susitna and Deshka Rivers. Beverly lists her hobbies as traveling, camping, fishing and hiking.

Catherine Mormile   Anchorage, Alaska

Catherine Mormile, 32, will be sharing the Iditarod experience with her husband, Donald. They will both be rookies. Originally from New York State, Catherine is a physical therapist at Independence Park Physical Therapy in Anchorage. Catherine came to Alaska in 1985 and states that Alaska is the best place they could ever have picked to live. "Alaska is perfect for all my interests in life," Catherine admits. The Mormille's have been training for their first Iditarod with Joe Redington, Sr. Catherine will drive Redington's Team #4 from Anchorage to Nome.

Kate Persons   Kotzebue, Alaska

Kate started her first dog team in 1981 after moving to Kotzebue. Originally, the dogs were just a means of getting out to enjoy the beauty of Northwest Alaska, but have proved to be a perfect combination of her greatest interests: the out of doors and animals. Kate wondered how long distance racers were able to travel 100 miles or more a day while her dogs could only manage about 40. The racers clearly knew a lot more about getting the most out of their dogs than she had been able. "I learned more about dogs and dog mushing preparing for and running my first race than in five years of mushing prior to that," Kate said.

For racing the Iditarod, Kate's hoping to pick up a few pointers from the pro's. Kate, 37, wrote in her Iditarod 19 application that her goal for the race "is to figure out the puzzle of maintaining my team's speed and enthusiasm through to the finish and to run a competitive a race as we are capable of."

Lynda Plettner   Palmer, Alaska

Lynda, age 41, began sprint racing in 1981 in the 3 dog class. She continued on to mid distance, then entered her first Iditarod in 1990. She has moved around the state and done many things from "bartending to substitute teaching." The mobility has allowed her to train in different conditions including the terrain surrounding Barrow.

She is the mother of two grown sons and enjoys horse training and animal husbandry. Her father, who passed away told her "Nothing is impossible if you want it bad enough." Lynda wants to run the Iditarod with dogs she has raised and trained.

Kathy Swenson   Two Rivers, Alaska

Iditarod 19 will be Kathy's first Race. A rookie to Iditarod, she is no rookie to dog mushing. Kathy has competed in many races including a first place victory in the 1989 Alpirod. Kathy and her husband Rick operate Trot-Along-Kennels.

Iditarod Champions

Year	Musher		Days	Hours	Min	Sec
1973	Dick Wilmarth		20	00	49	41
1974	Carl Huntington		20	15	02	07
1975	Emmitt Peters	14	14	43	45	
1976	Gerald Riley		18	22	58	17
1977	Rick Swenson	16	16	27	13	
1978	Dick Mackey		14	18	52	24
1979	Rick Swenson	15	10	37	47	
1980	Joe May		14	07	11	51
1981	Rick Swenson	12	08	45	02	
1982	Rick Swenson	16	04	40	10	
1983	Rick Mackey		12	14	10	44
1984	Dean Osmar		12	15	07	33
1985	Libby Riddles	18	00	20	17	
1986	Susan Butcher	11	15	06	00	
1987	Susan Butcher	11	02	05	13	
1988	Susan Butcher	11	11	41	40	
1989	Joe Runyan		11	05	24	34
1990	Susan Butcher	11	01	53	23	
1991	Rick Swenson	12	16	35		

Jr. Iditarod -- Fourteenth Anniversary

In order to enter "The Last Great Race," the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, one must be 18 years old.

In 1977, there were a number of younger mushers who wanted to "mush the Iditarod Trail." A group of these young people got together with Joe Redington, Sr. to organize the first Iditarod for junior mushers. This race, known as the Jr. Iditarod, is now in its 11th year. Those early organizers were Karl Clauson, Kenny Pugh, Clarence Shockley and Eric Beeman.

The Jr. Iditarod trail is 130 miles long. Mushers travel the 65 miles to Yentna Station over the historic Iditarod Trail and return.

When a musher turns 14, he/she is eligible to compete in the Jr. Iditarod. These young people often have their own teams and are totally responsible for training them. According to Dee Pralkle, the Jr. Iditarod is a "race founded with tthe idea of giving young adult mushers a choice between sprint and distance mushing and to help train young mushers to run the much longer race, the 'grand-daddy' of all long distance races: the Iditarod."

Many of the junior mushers have gone on to compete in the Iditarod. Tim Osmar, three time winner of the Jr. Iditarod, will compete in the 1991 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Karl Clauson, Rome Gilman, and Clarence Shockley are a few other former juniors who have gone on to race 1049 miles to Nome.

In October of 1987, a formal agreement was signed, officially making the Jr. Iditarod part of the Iditarod Trail Committee.

The race begins in Big Lake, February 23 at 11 a.m.

Jr. Iditarod Mushers -- 1990

1. **Aaron Burmeister**, Nome Alaska
2. **Ray Redington Jr.** -- Knik, Alaska
3. **Jhan Haddeland** -- Seward, Alaska
4. **Troy Ace** -- Buffalo Mine, Alaska
5. **Simon Kinneen** -- Nome, Alaska
6. **Julia Flodin** -- Chugiak, Alaska
7. **Cimaron Smyth** -- Big Lake, Alaska
8. **Brian Hanson** -- Anchorage, Alaska
9. **William Barron** -- Big Lake, Alaska

Iditarod Trail International Sled Dog Race
Official 1991 Rules

PRE-RACE PROCEDURE

1. **Sign Up and Entry Fee:** The entry fee is $1,249.00, U.S. Payable on or after June 30, 1990. Entries will be received by the Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC), PO Box 870800, Wasilla, Alaska 99687. This entry fee must be received by the ITC or postmarked by midnight, January 15, 1991. Payment of the $1,249.00 U.S. constitutes the musher's intent to enter the race and acknowledges that the musher agrees to comply with these rules. Upon written request, mushers withdrawing from the race prior to February 15, 1991, may recover $1,000.00 refund from the entry fee. After February 15, 1991, no part of the entry fee will be refunded. Mushers entering under the name of a kennel or sponsor must indicate the tentative musher's name with their entry. Musher's name must be confirmed prior to the musher's meeting. The ITC reserves the right to reject entries not in conformance with these rules. Entries may be presented to the ITC in person, by proxy or by mail. Mailed entries will be recorded alphabetically for southern route races and in reverse alphabetical order for northern route races. Entrants applying in person will be recorded in order of appearance prior to the mail recording. Entry fees received which are not in compliance with this rule shall be refunded and the musher shall not be allowed to participate.

2. **Musher Qualifications:** Mushers must be 18 of age as of the starting date for the 1991 race. Rookie mushers must submit with their application written proof of the completion of an ITC sanctioned race of at least 200 miles. Two hundred miles in a previous Iditarod race may be substituted for this qualification. Rookie mushers will be notified of acceptance or rejection under this rule within 30 days of application. Rookies completing their qualifying race after entering must notify the ITC prior to February 13, 1991, to confirm their entry.

3. **ITC Membership:** All musher must be members in good standing of the ITC by February 15, 1991 in order to be eligible for the 1991 race.

4. **Shipping of Food:** A minimum of **four** pounds of dog food per dog for each checkpoint designated **Class A** and two pounds to those checkpoints designated **Class B** must be shipped through the ITC by 8:00 A.M. on February 13, 1991. Those checkpoints designated **Class C** may also receive food through the food shipment at the musher's option. Musher's food and other personal items may be shipped with the dog food shipment. Each musher must comply with shipping directions provided by the ITC. Each container must be clearly marked with name and destination and must weigh no more than 70 pounds. No boxes of any kind may be used as the primary container. No straw, charcoal, fuel or other combustible material may be shipped through the ITC food drops.

5. **Veterinary Pre-race Examination:** All dogs will undergo a physical examination before the race starts. The examinations will be performed by an ITC authorized veterinarian. Only dogs that are found to be in good health will be permitted to run in the race. All examinations must be done within 7 days prior to the start of the race. All dogs entered in the race must have current parvo, rabies and distemper vaccines. Proof of distemper and parvo vaccination must come from a veterinarian, certified technician, health aide or in the form of a detailed shipping invoice proving purchase of an appropriate amount of the types of vaccine along with a statement by the musher stating that he has vaccinated the dogs. The distemper/parvo vaccine must be a modified live virus vaccine and must have been given between April 1, 1990, and 14 days prior to the veterinary pre-check. Proof of rabies vaccine must come from a licensed veterinarian or certified technician. Rabies vaccinations must have been after April 1, 1988. All proof of vaccinations must be presented to an authorized ITC veterinarian on the day of the pre-race examination. The official pre-race examination date and place will be announced by the ITC.

6. **Musher's Meeting and Drawing:** All mushers must attend the entire mushers' meeting prior to the mushers' banquet and be present to draw a starting position at the banquet. The time and place for this meeting will be announced by the ITC. The drawing for positions will be divided in half. The first half of the total mushers to enter will draw for the first half of the starting positions. The second half of the total mushers entered will draw for the second half of the starting positions. In the event of an odd number of entries, the odd number will be included in the last half the the drawing. All rookies must attend the official rookie meeting to be scheduled by the ITC.

7. **Purse:** The ITC has established a $300,000 purse for the 1991 race to be distributed as follows:

1. $50,000	6. $15,000	11. $9,500	16. $6,500
2. $39,500	7. $14,000	12. $9,000	17. $6,000
3. $32,000	8. $13,000	13. $8,500	18. $5,500
4. $24,500	9. $12,000	14. $8,000	19. $5,000
5. $19,000	10. $11,000	15. $7,500	20. $4,500

Each musher finishing beyond 20th place will receive $1,000. In the event less than $300,000 is available for prize money, the purse for each place will be reduced proportionately.

8. **Claims:** Each musher agrees to hold the ITC, race sponsors, and other contributors (that is, sponsors and contributors of the Race Committee as distinguished from the sponsors of the individual mushers) harmless from any claim or demand based on any alleged action or inaction by the musher, his dogs, agents, or others acting in his behalf. The musher also agrees to release the Iditarod Trail Committee Incorporated, race sponsors and their agents and employees from any claim or demand resulting from injury to the dropped dogs and misplaced food and supplies. Further, the Iditarod Trail Committee has the unqualified and unrestricted authority to authorize the photographing and collection of information about the race and all participants therein, and to use such photographs and information for advertising, public relations, or other publicity purposes. Each musher shall sign any and all documents as may be requested by the Iditarod Trail Committee. These documents must be executed at the mushers' meeting.

9. **Race Start:**

a) The official starting date and time for the 1991 race will be March 2, 1991, at 9:00 a.m. in Anchorage, Alaska. The race will be held as scheduled regardless of weather conditions. The starting place may be changed by the race marshal and judges due to weather and/or trail conditions. A handler will be required at the starting line. A handler may be required as far as Eagle River at the discretion of the Race Marshal.

b) The restart time shall be determined by a four (4) hour time lapse from arrival at the Eagle River checkpoint.

10. **Race Timing:** For elapsed time purposes, the race will be a common start event. Each musher's elapsed time between Anchorage and Nome will be calculated using 9:00 a.m., Saturday, March 2, as the starting time. Teams will leave the starting line at staggered intervals and the time differential will be adjusted during the 24-hour mandatory layover. Any musher who cannot leave the starting line in the order drawn must start 2 minutes after the musher who drew last place has left. Succeeding late start teams will leave in succeeding order at 2 minute intervals. Time differential for late starters will be calculated according to their scheduled starting time rather than the actual starting time.

11. **Dog Tags:** All dogs leaving the starting line will be marked and/or tagged with tags or markers provided by the ITC. Only current tags are permitted. Dogs must be listed by name and tag number/letter on the 'team list' provided by the ITC.

RACE PROCEDURES

12. **Checkpoints:** Each musher must personally sign in at each checkpoint before continuing except at the Wasilla restart. Gear will be checked at all checkpoints except Eagle River, Wasilla, Knik and Safety.1991 Checkpoints

1. Anchorage ***
2. Eagle River ***
3. Wasilla ***
4. Knik **
5. Skwenta **
6. Finger Lake **
7. Rainy Pass **
8. Rohn Roadhouse **
9. Nikolai **
10. McGrath **
11. Takotna *
12. Ophir **
13. Iditarod **
14. Shageluk **
15. Anvik **
16. Grayling **
17. Eagle Island **
18. Kaltag **
19. Unalakleet **
20. Shaktoolik **
21. Koyuk **
22. Elim **
23. Golovin *
24. White Mountain **
25. Safety **
26. Nome *

*	NO DOG DROP.
**	DOG DROP -- ITC RESPONSIBILITY.
***	DOG DROP -- MUSHER'S RESPONSIBILITY.

CLASS A (4 POUNDS)	CLASS B (2 POUNDS)	CLASS C (OPTION)
Rainy Pass	Skwentna	Finger Lake
Rohn	Nikolai	Takotna
Ophir	McGrath	Anvik
Iditarod	Shageluk	Safety
Grayling	Eagle Island	Nome
Kaltag	Koyuk	
Unalakleet	Elim	
Shaktoolik		
White Mountain		

No supplies may be shipped to Golovin. Teams may pick up supplies at their own responsibility at Eagle River, Wasilla or Knik.

13. **Twenty-four Hour Stop:** Each musher must take one mandatory 24-hour stop during the race. The 24-hour stop may be taken at the musher's option at a time most beneficial to the dogs. The checker must be notified by the musher that he is taking his 24 hour stop. Time begins upon notification. The starting differential will be adjusted during each team's 24 hour stop. Each musher must personally sign in and out to start and complete the mandatory stop. It is the musher's responsibility to remain for the entire 24 hour period plus starting differential. The ITC will give each musher the required time information prior to leaving the starting line.

14. **Six Hour Mandatory Stop:** Each musher must take one six (6) hour stop at White Mountain. During this stop, each team is subject to a veterinary check. Each musher must sign in and out to start and complete this stop.

15. **Promotional Material:** The ITC may require each musher to carry one container of promotional material, not to exceed five (5) pounds, over the trail. Each musher will be required to wear the bib in a visible fashion from the Safety checkpoint to Nome, and the winner shall continue to wear the bib through the lead dog ceremony. To be considered an official finisher, a musher must comply with this rule. All promotional material, except the bibs, must be returned to the ITC at the finish line, or in the case of mushers who scratch, to the checker accepting the musher's scratch form.

16. **Sled:** Each musher has a choice of his own sled subject to the requirement that some type of sled or toboggan must be drawn. The sled or toboggan must be capable of hauling any injured or fatigued dogs, undercover, plus equipment and food. Breaking devices must be constructed to fit between the runners and not to extend beyond the tails of the runners.

17. **Mandatory Items:**

Each musher must have with him at all times the following items:

1) Proper cold weather sleeping bag weighing a minimum of 5 lbs. or with a manufacturer's rating of -25F or lower;
2) Axe, head to weigh a minimum of 1-3/4 lbs., handle to be at least 22" long;
3) One pair of snow shoes with bindings, each shoe to be at least 33" long and 8" wide;
4) Any promotional material provided by the ITC;
5) Eight booties for each dog in the sled or in use.

DOG PROCEDURES

18. **Jurisdiction and Care:** Dogs are under the jurisdiction and care of the chief veterinarian and his staff from the time they enter the staging area at the start until 72 hours after the team finishes in Nome or are scratched or disqualified. This jurisdiction ends when the team is removed from Nome.

19. **Shipping Dropped Dogs:** Mushers may drop dogs at designated dog drops. Dogs dropped at checkpoints will normally be moved to the closest dog collection area at Anchorage, McGrath, Galena, Unalakleet, or Nome. Dogs will be shipped from the collection area to a location designated by the musher at the musher's expense. Dropped dogs left unclaimed at Eagle River Correctional Center past four days after their arrival will incur boarding charges at the current rate.

20. **Dog Minimums:** A musher must have at least 7 and no more than 20 dogs on the tow line to start the race. He must have at least 5 dogs on the tow line at all times. Dogs may not be added to a team after the start of the race. All dogs must either be on the tow line or hauled in the sled and cannot be led behind the sled or allowed to run loose.

21. **Switching of Dogs:** Dogs may not be switched between mushers after teams have been marked on race day. Any dog to be exchanged before marking, but after the veterinary pre-check, must be reported to race officials prior to being marked. Switched dogs must retain the current original ITC washer or tag.

22. **Dog Care:** The chief veterinarian may penalize a musher if proper dog care is not maintained.

23. **Unmanageable Teams:** Mushers may seek the aid of others to control an unmanageable team.

24. **Driverless Team:** Each team and driver must complete the entire race trail including checking in at all required locations. A driverless team or loose dog may be stopped and secured by anyone. The driver may recover his team either on foot, with assistance from another musher or mechanized vehicle and continue the race. If a dog team is picked up during an emergency, it is the race marshal's discretion as to whether or not that team must be returned to that point if it is to continue the race. Motorized assistance must be reported to an official at the next checkpoint. If mechanized help is used, the team or dog must be returned to the point where it was lost before the team or dog may continue.

25. **Hauling Dogs:** A musher may not allow any of his dogs to be hauled by another team. Dogs must be hauled in a humane fashion, and must be covered if conditions require.

26. **Teams Tied Together:** Two or more teams may not be tied together except in an emergency. Any team so involved must notify officials at the next checkpoint.

27. **Pacing:** Pacing is not allowed. Pacing includes any outside influence which affects the speed of a team except for following another competing team or an official race vehicle such as one of the Iditarod Anchorage to Nome snow machines.

28. **Motorized Vehicles:** A musher shall not accept assistance from any motorized vehicle, except incidentally in a checkpoint or when recovering a loose dog or driverless team.

29. **Shelter for Dogs:** Dogs may not be brought into buildings except for medical examination or treatment. Dogs must be returned outside as soon as such examination or treatment is completed unless the dog is dropped from the race.

30. **CRUEL AND INHUMANE TREATMENT:** THERE WILL BE NO CRUEL OR INHUMANE TREATMENT OF DOGS. CRUEL OR INHUMANE TREATMENT INVOLVES ANY ACTION OR INACTION WHICH CAUSES PREVENTABLE PAIN OR SUFFERING TO A DOG.

31. **Injured, Fatigued or Sick Dogs:** All injured, fatigued or sick dogs that are dropped from the race must be left at a designated dog drop with a completed and signed dropped dog form. Each dropped dog must be left with four (4) pounds of dog food and a reliable chain or cable (of the official length) and collar. Cables **must** have a snap swivel. A veterinarian may prevent a dog from leaving a checkpoint for medical reasons. Obtaining necessary veterinary care for dropped dogs is the musher's responsibility. (If emergency treatment or shipment is necessary as authorized by the chief veterinarian, the musher is responsible for the cost.)

32. **Expired Dogs:** Any dog that expires on the trail must be taken by the musher to a checkpoint. The musher may transport the dog to either the checkpoint just passed, or the upcoming checkpoint. An expired dog report must be completed by the musher and presented to a race official along with the dog. All expired dogs will be autopsied by an ITC veterinarian. The cost of all pathological tests will be paid by the musher.

33. **Signal Devices:** Signal whips can be no longer than 36". Whips must be kept out of sight of another team. No signal device may be used to adversely affect another teams' progress.

34. **Harnesses and Cables:** Dogs must leave checkpoints with functional, non-chafing harnesses. Mushers must carry cable tie-out lines or have cable in their towline capable of securing the team.

35. **Drug Use:** No injectable, oral or topical drug which may suppress the signs of illness or injury may be used on a dog. No other drugs or other artificial means may be used to drive a dog or cause a dog to perform or attempt to perform beyond its natural ability.

The following drugs are prohibited:

1. Analgesics (prescriptive and non-prescriptive)
2. Anti-inflammatory drugs including but not limited to:
    a) Cortico-steroids
    b) Antiprostaglandins
    c) Non-steroids
    d) Salicylates
3. Central nervous system stimulants
4. Cough suppressants
5. Anesthetics
6. Diuretics
7. Anabolic steroids
8. Muscle relaxants
9. Injectable anticolinergics
10. Antihistamines

Sedatives and local anesthetics are prohibited for use by mushers; however, these drugs may be used by trail veterinarians and the dog may be allowed to continue at the veterinarian's discretion.

Dogs are subject to the collection of urine or blood samples, at the discretion of the veterinarian, at any point from the pre-race examination until four (4) hours after the teams finish in Nome. The musher or a designee will remain with the dogs. All results will be sealed and signed for before the tests are considered complete.

Mushers must assist the veterinarian in collecting samples whenever requested. If blood or urine testing of a dog reveals any of the prohibitive drugs in the dog, this rule has been violated, regardless when such drugs were administered to the dog.

The external use of DMSO and topical corticosteroids are limited to use on the feet.

The practice of blood doping, i.e., injection of whole blood, packed blood cells or blood substitutes, is illegal and any confirmation of use is a violation of this rule.

Race veterinarians may utilize any of the listed drugs or any other drugs necessary to maintain a dog's health, however, such dogs will be withdrawn from the race. The use of general anesthetics will not be allowed in any form unless the dog is withdrawn from the race.

Personal prescriptions written for and carried by the musher may not be used on the dogs.

MUSHER CONDUCT

36. **Good Samaritan Rule:** A musher will not be penalized under rule number 26 or rule number 45 for aiding another musher in an emergency. Incidents should be explained to race officials at the next checkpoint.

37. **Interference:** No musher may tamper with another musher's dogs, food or gear or interfere in any manner with the progress of another team.

38. **Food and Gear at Checkpoint:** Dog food left behind and dog food from scratched and disqualified mushers becomes the property of the ITC and may be used at the discretion of race officials. Personal gear, equipment and supplies may not be transported along the trail by mechanized means without the consent of the race marshal. Dog food and supplies must remain at the checkpoint storage area until such time as the musher is officially checked in.

39. **Passing:** When one team approaches to within 50 feet of another team, the team behind shall have the immediate right of way upon demand. The musher ahead must stop his dogs and hold them to the best of his ability for a maximum of one minute or until the other team has passed, whichever occurs first. The passed team must remain behind at least 15 minutes before demanding the trail.

40. **Sportsmanship:** Mushers shall conduct themselves in a civil, sportsmanlike manner throughout the race. Abusive treatment of anyone is prohibited.

41. **Parking:** Mushers must select a campsite at least 10 feet off the race trail so that his dogs cannot interfere with other teams. Mushers needing to stop momentarily must not interfere with the progress of another team. Teams must be parked at locations in checkpoints which do not interfere with the movement of other teams and mushers. i.e. no snacking of dogs in trail.

42. **Litter:** No litter of any kind may be left on the trail, camps, or in checkpoints. All materials remaining in checkpoints must be left in designated areas.

43. **Use of Drugs and Alcohol:** Use of illegal drugs as defined by state law or excessive use of alcohol by mushers during the race is prohibited. Mushers are subject to collection of urine samples at any point from the start until one (1) hour after each team's finish in Nome.

44. **Demand for Food and Shelter:** Mushers may not make demands for food and shelter along the trail.

45. **Outside Assistance:** No musher may receive outside assistance between checkpoints. All care and feeding of dogs will be done only by that team's musher. No planned help is allowed throughout the race, including checkpoints, although incidental help at checkpoints may be permitted if provided by local residents. Mushers leaving the area of their team for any reason for a period of time or to a location wherein the musher cannot exercise direct care and responsibility for his team must withdraw from the race.

46. **Lost Food:** Mushers may replace lost or unusable dog food shipments at checkpoints through whatever methods are available.

47. **No Man's Land:** No man's land is the trail between Ft. David Roadhouse and the official finish line in Nome. Mushers need not relinquish the trail on demand in this area.

GENERAL

48. **One Musher per Team:** Only one musher will be permitted per team and that musher must complete the entire race.

49. **Substitutes:** A musher may appoint a substitute driver for his team by notifying the ITC in writing prior to the mushers' meeting. The musher must be present to draw his/her start number at the banquet.

50. **Killing of Game Animals:** In the event that an edible big game animal, i.e., Moose, Caribou, Buffalo, is killed in defense of life or property, the musher must gut the animal and report the incident to a race official at the next checkpoint. Any other animal killed in defense of life or property must be reported to a race official, but need not be gutted.

51. **Finish:** An official finish is determined by the nose of the first dog to cross the finish line.

52. **Awards Presentation:** The awards presentation ceremony at Nome will be held no sooner than the evening following 72 hours after the first team crosses the finish line. All mushers who have crossed the finish line up to two hours before the ceremony must be present and the winner must have his lead dog(s) present for recognition.

OFFICIALS AND PENALTIES

53. **Race Officials:** The race marshal and judges are responsible for the enforcement of all race rules. On matters pertaining to dog care and treatment, the veterinary staff is also responsible for enforcement. The chief veterinarian will decide disputed decisions regarding dog care and treatment.

54. **Protests:** A musher may protest any action of a competitor or official which he feels is contrary to the intent of these rules. To be recognized as a legitimate protest, any infraction observed by a musher must be presented in writing at the next checkpoint and in no case more than 24 hours after a musher finishes the race. Protests against race officials will be decided by a five-member appeal's board appointed by the president of the ITC.

55. **Penalties:** Rule infractions may result in issuance of warnings, monetary penalties, time penalties, censure or disqualification. Warnings may be issued by any official. Monetary penalties, censures and time penalties require a majority decision of a three-member panel of race officials appointed by the race marshal. Disqualifications require a unanimous decision of a three-member panel of race officials appointed by the race marshal. The chief veterinarian will be included in all cases involving cruel or inhumane treatment.

a) Warnings: Written warnings may be issued for first time or minor violations.

b) Monetary penalties may be imposed up to $1,000 per violation. Such penalties may be deducted from prize money. A musher with unpaid fines may not enter future Iditarod races until such fines are paid.

c) Censure: The Board of Directors, following completion of the race, may censure a musher for cause. A censure may include a warning, either public or private, and may eliminate the musher from future races. A written warning, monetary penalty or disqualification must have occurred before censure.

d) Time Penalties: Time penalties of up to a maximum of one (1) hour may be levied where an unintentional rule infraction gains the musher a time advantage. Time penalties will be added to the 24-hour layover or to the 6 hour layover at White Mountain. No time penalties will be levied after White Mountain.

e) Disqualifications: Mushers shall be disqualified for rule infractions involving cruel and inhumane treatment of animals or for cheating or deliberate rule infractions which gives a musher an unfair advantage over another musher. Cruel or inhumane treatment involves any action, such as, kicking a dog, or inaction which causes preventable pain or suffering to a dog. It is intended that the nearest involved official be included on the panel. The musher will be given the opportunity to present his case to each member of the panel prior to the decision. A musher may be allowed to continue racing while a decision is being made, except in cases involving cruel or inhumane treatment.

56. **Appeals:** Mushers may appeal warnings, censure, or monetary fines. Appeals pertaining to warnings or monetary fines must be presented in writing to the ITC within 10 days following the awards banquet. Appeals pertaining to censure must be presented to the ITC in writing within 10 days after receipt of the censure by the musher. Appeals will be considered at an informal hearing before an appeal's board appointed by the president of ITC which will be held within 30 days of filing the appeal. Appeal's board findings will be final. There is no appeal from a disqualification or time penalties.

THE INTENT OF THESE RULES IS TO INSURE FAIR COMPETITION. THE RACE SHOULD BE WON OR LOST ON MERIT RATHER THAN TECHNICALITIES. THE RACE OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY THE ITC ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERPRETING THE RULES IN KEEPING WITH THAT INTENT.

WHAT DOES THE WORD "IDITAROD" MEAN?

(We have come across three different definitions--take your pick!)

The following is from an article in the *Anchorage Times* following the 1973 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, written by Gordon Fowler, Times Sports writer:

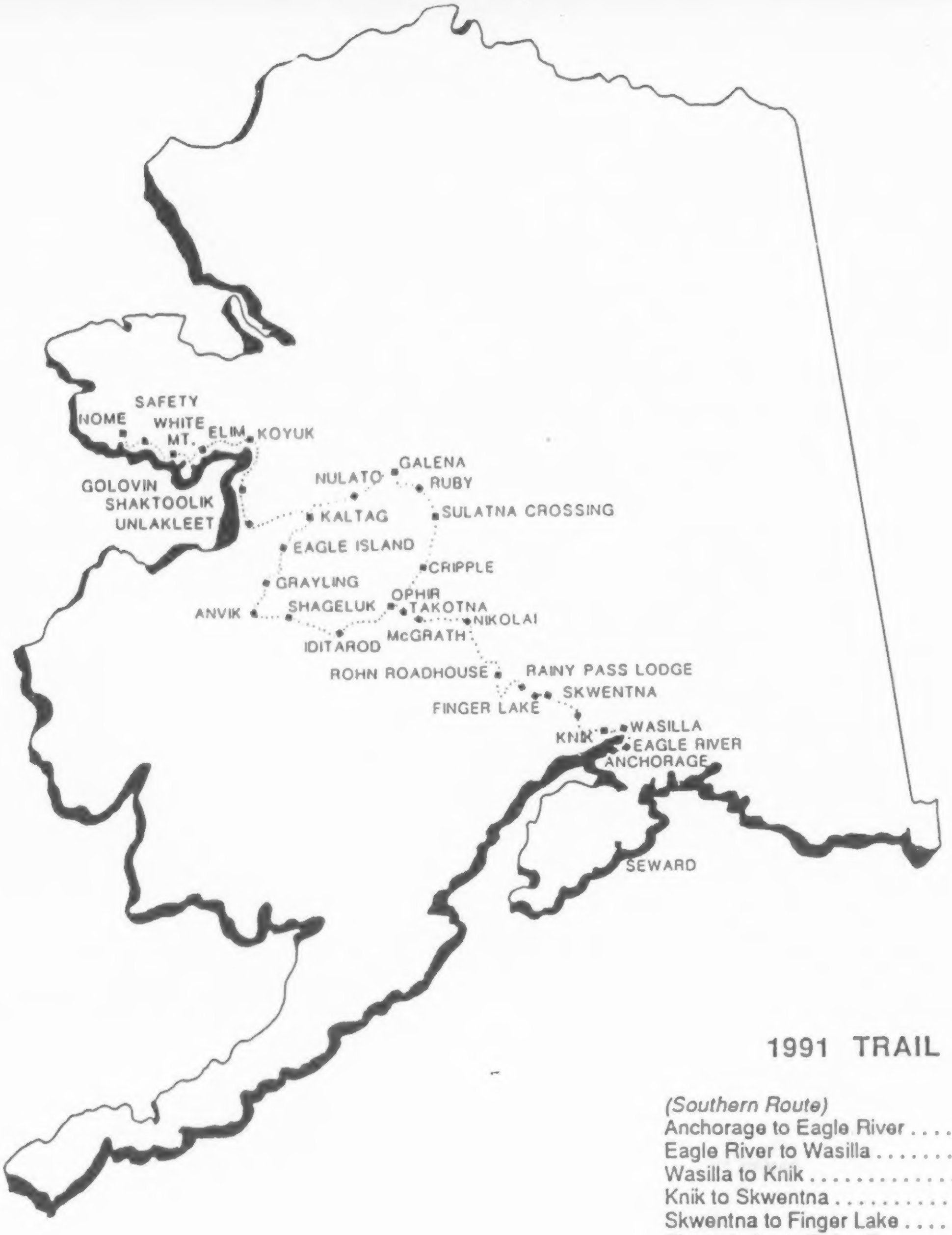
Iditarod means *clear water* and was named by the Shageluk Indians for the Iditarod River.

The following came from one of the Anchorage papers during the 1983 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race:

The word comes from the Ingalik Indian word *Haiditarod* which was the name for the river on which the town was built. It means *distant place.*

And this one comes from James Karl, Assistant Professor, University of Alaska Native Language Center in 1979:

The name Iditarod come from an Ingalik and Holikachuk word *hidedhod* for the Iditarod River. This name means *distant* or *distant place.* This word is still known by elders in the villages of Shageluk, Anvik, Grayling and Holy Cross.


SAFETY
NOME
WHITE MT.
ELIM
KOYUK
GALENA
NULATO
RUBY
GOLOVIN
SHAKTOOLIK
UNLAKLEET
KALTAG
SULATNA CROSSING
EAGLE ISLAND
CRIPPLE
GRAYLING
OPHIR
ANVIK
SHAGELUK
TAKOTNA
NIKOLAI
IDITAROD
McGRATH
ROHN ROADHOUSE
RAINY PASS LODGE
SKWENTNA
FINGER LAKE
WASILLA
KNIK
EAGLE RIVER
ANCHORAGE
SEWARD

The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race

Northern & Southern Routes

1991 TRAIL MILEAGE

(Southern Route)	
Anchorage to Eagle River	20 miles
Eagle River to Wasilla	29 miles
Wasilla to Knik	14 miles
Knik to Skwentna	88 miles
Skwentna to Finger Lake	45 miles
Finger Lake to Rainy Pass	30 miles
Rainy Pass to Rohn	48 miles
Rohn to Nikolai	93 miles
Nikolai to McGrath	48 miles
McGrath to Takotna	23 miles
Takotna to Ophir	38 miles
Ophir to Iditarod	90 miles
Iditarod to Shageluk	65 miles
Shageluk to Anvik	25 miles
Anvik to Grayling	18 miles
Grayling to Eagle Island	60 miles
Eagle Island to Kaltag	70 miles
Kaltag to Unalakleet	90 miles
Unalakleet to Shaktoolik	40 miles
Shaktoolik to Koyuk	58 miles
Koyuk to Elim	48 miles
Elim to Golovin	28 miles
Golovin to White Mountain	18 miles
White Mountain to Safety	55 miles
Safety to Nome	22 miles

1991 RACE STANDINGS

Musher	Hometown	Total Elapsed Time Days:Hrs:Min:Sec	Prize Money
1. Rick Swenson	Two Rivers, Alaska	12:16:34:39	$50,000
2. Martin Buser	Big Lake, Alaska	12:18:41:49	$39,500
3. Susan Butcher	Manley, Alaska	12:21:59:03	$32,000
4. Tim Osmar	Kasilof, Alaska	12:22:33:33	$24,500
5. Joe Runyan	Nenana, Alaska	12:22:36:30	$19,000
6. Frank Teasley	Nenana, Alaska	13:12:27:57	$15,000
7. DeeDee Jonrowe	Willow, Alaska	13:13:44:10	$14,000
8. Matt Desalernos	Nome, Alaska	13:13:44:35	$13,000
9. Rick Mackey	Nenana, Alaska	13:13:54:39	$12,000
10. Bill Cotter	Nenana, Alaska	13:13:57:28	$11,000
11. Kate Persons	Kotzebue, Alaska	13:14:20:59	$9,500
12. Jeff King	Nenana, Alaska	13:14:24:40	$9,000
13. Jacques Philip	By Thomery, France	13:15:07:39	$8,500
14. Jerry Austin	St. Michael, Alaska	13:17:10:51	$8,000
15. Michael Madden	North Pole, Alaska	13:20:06:26	$7,500
16. Ketil Reitan	Kaktovik, Alaska	13:21:54:12	$6,500
17. Lavon Barve	Wasilla, Alaska	13:22:20:14	$6,000
18. Peryll Kyzer	Willow, Alaska	14:16:26:26	$5,500
19. Terry Adkins	Sand Coulee, Montana	14:16:46:51	$5,000
20. Bill Jack	Nome, Alaska	14:19:38:14	$4,500
21. Beverly Masek	Rustic Wilderness, Alaska	15:09:03:51	finish money of $1,000 per musher for those finishing from 21st - 60th position
22. Laird Barron	Big Lake, Alaska	15:10:07:15	
23. Joe Garnie	Teller, Alaska	15:11:53:33	
24. Rick Armstrong	Two Rivers, Alaska	15:12:24:07	
25. Linwood Fiedler	Willow, Alaska	15:23:45:15	
26. Burt Bomhoff	Willow, Alaska	16:08:48:36	
27. Dan MacEachen	Snowmass, Colorado	16:09:08:46	
28. Dave Olesen	Reliance, NWT	16:10:01:52	
29. Raymie Redington	Knik, Alaska	16:10:02:23	
30. Dave Allen	Trapper Creek, Alaska	16:10:25:26	
31. Joe Redington Sr.	Knik, Alaska	16:11:56:56	
32. Jerry Raychel	Chugiak, Alaska	16:17:51:17	
33. Mark Nordman	Grand Marais, Minnesota	16:17:55:38	
34. Malcolm Vance	McCarthy, Alaska	17:09:30:00	
35. Macgill Adams	Big Lake, Alaska	17:10:10:13	
36. Nikolai Ettyne	Neshkan, USSR	17:10:53:00	
37. Alexander Reznyuk	Provideniya, USSR	17:11:54:12	
38. Tony Shoogukwruk	White Mountain, Alaska	17:12:34:11	
39. Rollin Westrum	Nome, Alaska	17:13:44:00	
40. Brian Stafford	Houston, Alaska	17:15:35:48	
41. John Suter	Chugiak, Alaska	17:18:23:31	
42. Roger Roberts	Nome, Alaska	17:22:08:00	
43. Larry Munoz	Anchorage, Alaska	17:22:59:52	
44. Jim Cantor	Chugiak, Alaska	18:00:02:00	
45. Terry Seaman	Nikiski, Alaska	18:00:08:35	
46. Kazuo Kojima	Tokyo,Japan	18:00:29:28	
47. Rich Bosela	Chugiak, Alaska	18:00:50:45	
48. Pat Danly	Trapper Creek, Alaska	18:02:23:36	
49. Dave Breuer	Wasilla, Alaska	18:04:49:29	
50. Chris Converse	Wasilla, Alaska	18:05:09:50	
51. Sepp Herrman	Brooks Range, Alaska	21:05:59:26	
52. Lynda Plettner	Palmer, Alaska	21:21:04:06	
53. Jon Terhune	Kenai, Alaska	22:00:11:04	
54. Gunner Johnson	Anchorage, Alaska	22:00:57:48	
55. Urtha Lenharr	Anchorage, Alaska	22:01:05:09	
56. Tom Daily	Trapper Creek, Alask	22:01:06:50	
57. Mark Williams	Willow, Alaska	22:01:06:58	
58. Catherine Mormile	Anchorage, Alaska	22:01:18:28	
59. Don Mormile	Anchorage, Alaska	22:01:35:16	
60. Brian O'Donoghue	Fairbanks, Alaska	22:05:55:55	

SCRATCHED

David Aisenbrey	Montana Creek, Alaska
Nels Anderson	Soldotna, Alaska
Roy Monk	Burnley, England
Gary Moore	Willow, Alaska
John Ace	Sutton, Alaska
Sonny Russell	Kotzebue, Alaska
Robin Jacobson	Squaw Lake, Minnesota
Steve Fossett	Chicago, Illinois
Alan Garth	Croydon, England
Bill Peele	Clayton, North Carolina
Barry Lee	Anchorage, Alaska
Ken Chase	Anvik, Alaska
John Barron	Willow, Alaska
Gary Whittemore	Cantwell, Alaska

DISQUALIFIED

Joe Carpenter	Chugiak, Alaska

SPECIAL AWARDS

Spirit of Iditarod Award

Timberland, the prime sponsor of Iditarod, presented the first Spirit of Iditarod Award to Col. Norman D. Vaughan in 1989. The second award was presented posthumously to the "Mother of the Iditarod," Dorothy G. Page. This year, tribute was paid to Joe Redington, Sr., "Father of the Iditarod," as he was presented the Spirit of Iditarod Awards at the mushers' banquet in Anchorage just before the start of Iditarod 19. The award was presented by Jay Steere, Marketing Manager at the Timberland Company. Redington received a beautiful cut crystal trophy engraved with the words, "Spirit of Iditarod Award," a miniature of the perpetual award that is displayed year round at Iditarod Headquarters in Wasilla.

Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award

The 1991 veterinary staff selected DeeDee Jonrowe as the winner of the Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award. Bill MacKay, vice president of Alaska Airlines, and Jack Morris, DVM, Iditarod's chief veterinarian, presented the beautiful crystal trophy to Jonrowe. She also received transportation back to Anchorage for herself and her dogs and two free round trip tickets to anywhere on the Alaska Airlines system. Dr. Morris explained that this annual award goes to the musher who, in the eyes of the veterinarians on the trail, has demonstrated the best dog team care throughout the race. Morris commented that there was excellent dog care on the race this year.

Clarion Hotel First Musher to the Yukon Award

Since 1987, the Clarion Hotel has presented an award to the first musher to reach the Yukon River. The location alternates between Anvik and Ruby, depending on whether the Iditarod Race is on the southern or northern trail. In 1991, Jeff King was the first musher into Anvik, arriving at 2:23 a.m. on March 9, almost four hours ahead of the next nearest competitor, 1990 champion, Susan Butcher. Clarion General Manager Max Lowe and Sales Manager Rich Owens served King a seven course gourmet feast prepared on a Coleman two burner stove by Clarion Executive Chef, Al Levinsohn. The meal began with an assorted seafood appetizer plate served with Domaine Chandon blanc de Noirs. The second course, chicken consumme with garden vegetables, was followed with sauteed shrimp in gin and vermouth, which was served with Robert Mondavi Chardonnay. The third course was Clarion's own black raspberry sorbet. That was followed by Caribbean lamb medallions with fresh pineapple relish, and was served with Kiona Merlot. An assorted fresh fruit and cheese plate was enjoyed next. Dessert consisted of assorted ice cream tarts with Clarion-made ice creams. Dessert was served with fancy chocolate moose coffee. At the banquet in Nome, Jeff was presented with a gold pan commemorating the event and $3,500 in crisp one dollar bills. While making the presentation, Max Lowe described Jeff as being very gracious and commented that he dined leisurely and enjoyed the feast. Recognizing that the "dinner on the Yukon" is not the most relaxing affair for the winning musher, the Clarion awarded Jeff King the same dinner for two at the Clarion to be served at a later date. Additionally, Lowe presented Leo Rasmussen, ITC president, with a permanent plaque to be hung in Iditarod headquarters in Wasilla.

Fastest Time from Anchorage to Eagle River

Since the Eagle River V.F.W. Post became "checkpoint #1," they have awarded a cash prize to the musher who finishes the race and had the fastest time from Anchorage to Eagle River. For the fifth year in a row, this award has gone to Martin Buser. Five years ago, his time was two hours, 15 minutes. The next year, he cut that to two hours, six minutes. In 1989, he made the run in two hours exactly. In 1990, his time was two hours, 19 minutes. This year he cut that time by one minute, arriving in two hours, 18 minutes. He was presented with a check for $1,249, the amount of his entry fee, at a V.F.W meeting shortly after the race.

Dodge Dash Award

Joe Garnie won the 1991 Dodge Dash, arriving into Skwentna just nine minutes ahead of Lavon Barve. The prize for the winner of "the race within a race" is a 1991 Dodge Dakota, four wheel drive pick up. Upon his arrival in Skwentna at 3:16 a.m. on Sunday morning, March 3, the keys to Garnie's new truck were presented to him by Jim Yetter, Truck Merchandising Manager for Dodge, and Jim Howitt, Account Executive at Carlson Marketing. Garnie, who started the race in 13th position arrived at Skwentna in 17 hours, 15 minutes. An interesting aside is that in 1987, Garnie was also the first musher into Skwentna, but that year he started in 53rd position and arrived into Skwentna in 16 hours.

Iams Sportsmanship Award

The Iams Company presented its fourth annual Sportsmanship Award in 1991. The mushers chose Terry Adkins for his action in assisting fellow musher Gary Whittemore, who was stranded on the ice outside of Koyuk. According to Race Marshal, Jim Kershner, Adkins very likely saved Whittemore's life. Tim Gibbons, representing the Iams Company, presented Terry with a beautiful etched glass award and one ton of Iams Eukanuba. A perpetual trophy, with names of all Iams Sportsmanship Award winners is on display year round at Iditarod headquarters.

Sterling Achievement Award

The third annual Sterling Achievement Award was presented to Frank Teasley by Tracy Olson of the Alaska Commercial Company. This award, a plaque and a $500 gift certificate good at any Alaska Commercial Store, was designed to recognize the most improved musher. Teasley, who finished 31st in his first race in 1988 and 19th in 1989, was disqualified in 1990 when there were so many sick dogs on his team that he wasn't allowed to continue. But he came back in 1991, finishing sixth, prompting his fellow competitors to select him for this recognition. When presenting the award, Olson commented that the Sterling Achievement Award recognizes "outstanding performance and commitment," and congratulated Frank for his success in the 1991 race.

Alascom's Halfway Award

1991 marks the 12th year that Alascom has presented an award to the first musher into the halfway checkpoint. That award is presented in Iditarod in the uneven years when the race follows the southern trail from Ophir to Kaltag, and in Cripple in the even years when the northern trail is followed. In 1980, Herbie Nayokpuk received $1,500 in silver ingots and a silver trophy at Cripple. In 1991, 11 years later, the halfway award was shared by mushers Susan Butcher and DeeDee Jonrowe, who arrived in Iditarod at 1:38 a.m. Butcher commented that after they had shared the trail breaking responsibilities for some 80 miles, she felt they should share the award. DeeDee and Susan had left Ophir at 0017 and 0057 on March 6. Because several feet of fresh snow virtually destroyed the trail, the 90 mile trek took them over 25 hours. Twenty one mushers who left Ophir within 10 hours of the two leaders arrived in Iditarod within five and one half hours. Butcher's total elapsed time to Iditarod was five days, 15 hours, 17 minutes. Jonrowe's total time was five days, 15 hours, 39 minutes. Both mushers received a silver trophy. Three thousand dollars in specially minted silver ingots, which Jonrowe and Butcher agreed to share, was presented by Tom Jensen, Alascom's public affairs director. The perpetual trophy with names of all 13 winners of Alascom's award, is on display at Iditarod headquarters throughout the year.

Most Inspirational Musher Award

The official finishers voted Lavon Barve and Joe Garnie the most inspirational mushers in Iditarod 19. Guy Blankenship, president of the Iditarod Official Finishers Club, complimented Barve and Garnie for maintaining their sense of humor after losing their teams during the last days of the race and still finishing Iditarod 19 despite dropping a number of positions. Both lost their teams while trying to find the trail in white out conditions and both mushers had been running consistently in the top 10 before losing their teams. Blankenship presented them each with a hand carved hunting knife, crafted by carvers from Provideniya, USSR.

Rookie of the Year Award

For this award, a rookie is defined as a musher racing his/her first Iditarod Race. Since 1981, Jerry and Clara Austin have been presenting the top placing rookie with a beautiful trophy. This year, Kate Persons finished in 11th position in 13 days, 14 hours, 20 minutes and 59 seconds, the sixth highest rookie time in the history of the Iditarod Race. Kate is the third Kotzebue musher to receive this award, following in the footsteps of Lucy Nordlum and Sonny Russell.

Fastest Time from Safety to Nome

One of the longest standing awards to an Iditarod musher is presented by the Nome Kennel Club. The club awards $500 to the musher who finishes in the top twenty and has the fastest time from Safety to Nome. Rick Mackey's claimed this award for the fourth time, with a time of two hours, 24 minutes, 15 minutes faster than DeeDee Jonrowe's time of two hours, 39 minutes. His fastest time between Safety and Nome was two hours, 19 minutes, in 1981. The record Safety to Nome time is Susan Butcher's time of two hours, 17 minutes, set in 1990. The Nome Kennel Club has presented this award since 1975.

Golden Harness Award

Lolly Medley, a Wasilla musher and harness maker, has been presenting a golden harness to an outstanding lead dog since 1979. The outstanding performance of Rick Swenson's lead dogs, Major and Goose, in the difficult 1991 race, was recognized by the mushers. At the awards banquet, the golden harness was presented to Major and Goose.

Arctic Sports Medicine Human Performance Award

The fourth annual Human Performance Award was presented to Lavon Barve and Rick Swenson. In presenting the award on behalf of the Joe Redington Sled Dog Institute and the Arctic Sports Medicine Institute, Libby Riddles and Vi Redington cited Barve and Swenson for their physical performance at the maximum level of their ability.

Red Lantern Award

The Red Lantern Award, presented by the National Bank of Alaska, traditionally goes to the last musher across the finish line. The 1991 recipient was rookie Brian O'Donoghue, who finished at 2:56 p.m. on Sunday, March 24, a total elapsed time of 22 days, five hours, 55 minutes, 55 seconds. The red lantern time for 1991 was nine days, 13 hours, 21 minutes and 16 seconds longer than the winning time.

Press Highlights

1. There are 78 mushers signed up for the 1990 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Thirty of these are rookies and nine are women. There are entrants from Montana and Minnesota, as well as from Alaska. Mushers are competing from Great Britain, Japan and France.

2. Four of the twelve Iditarod champions will be attempting to regain their title. Three of the seven Yukon Quest champions are entered as well as four of the John Beargrease champions and all but one of the Kusko 300 champions.

3. The first Iditarod race to Nome started March 3, 1973.

4. In 1986, Susan Butcher broke Rick Swenson's record, set in 1981, by completing the 1049+ miles in 11 days, 15 hours and six minutes, and this was done on the longest Northern Route. In 1987 she broke her own record by finishing in 11 days, two hours, five minutes and 13 seconds. Then in 1990 she broke her record again, finishing in 11 days, one hour, 53 minutes, 23 seconds.

5. Carl Huntington won the 1974 race with the slowest winning time, 20 days, 15 hours, two minutes and seven seconds.

6. The teams average 15 dogs, which means over 1,200 dogs will leave Anchorage for Nome.

7. There are 26 checkpoints, the first in Anchorage and the last in Nome.

8. The closest finish was in 1978. Dick Mackey finished one second ahead of Rick Swenson. Mackey's time was 14 days, 18 hours, 52 minutes and 24 seconds.

9. The most mushers to finish a single race was 61 in 1990.

10. A red Lantern is awarded to the last musher to finish. The longest time for a Red Lantern was 32 days, 15 hours, nine minutes and one second by John Schultz in 1973. The quickest Red Lantern musher was Bob Hoyte with a time of 17 days, 11 hours, 19 minutes and 19 seconds.

11. Rick Swenson and Susan Butcher are the only four time winners of "The Last Great Race."Rick Swenson won in 1977, 1979, 1981 and 1982. Susan Butcher won in 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1990. While both will be striving for a fifth victory in 1991, Swenson says he wants this win because it will make him the only musher to win the Iditarod in three different decades.

12. The youngest musher to ever compete in the Iditarod was Rome Gilman in 1979 who had just turned 18. The oldest musher to ever compete is Col. Norman Vaughan who turned 84 recently and is participating in this Iditarod. He has completed the race four times, the last time in 1990. Though he is not competing in 1991, he says he'll be back in 1992.

13. Rick Mackey won the race in 1983 to become the first son of an Iditarod champion to match his father's accomplishment. To further set a record, both father and son were wearing bib number 13 when they crossed the finish line in first position. Anyone superstitious?

14. Three hundred thirty five mushers from four continents and 11 foreign countries have competed in Iditarod races since 1973, including 29 women.